AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER WEEKLY

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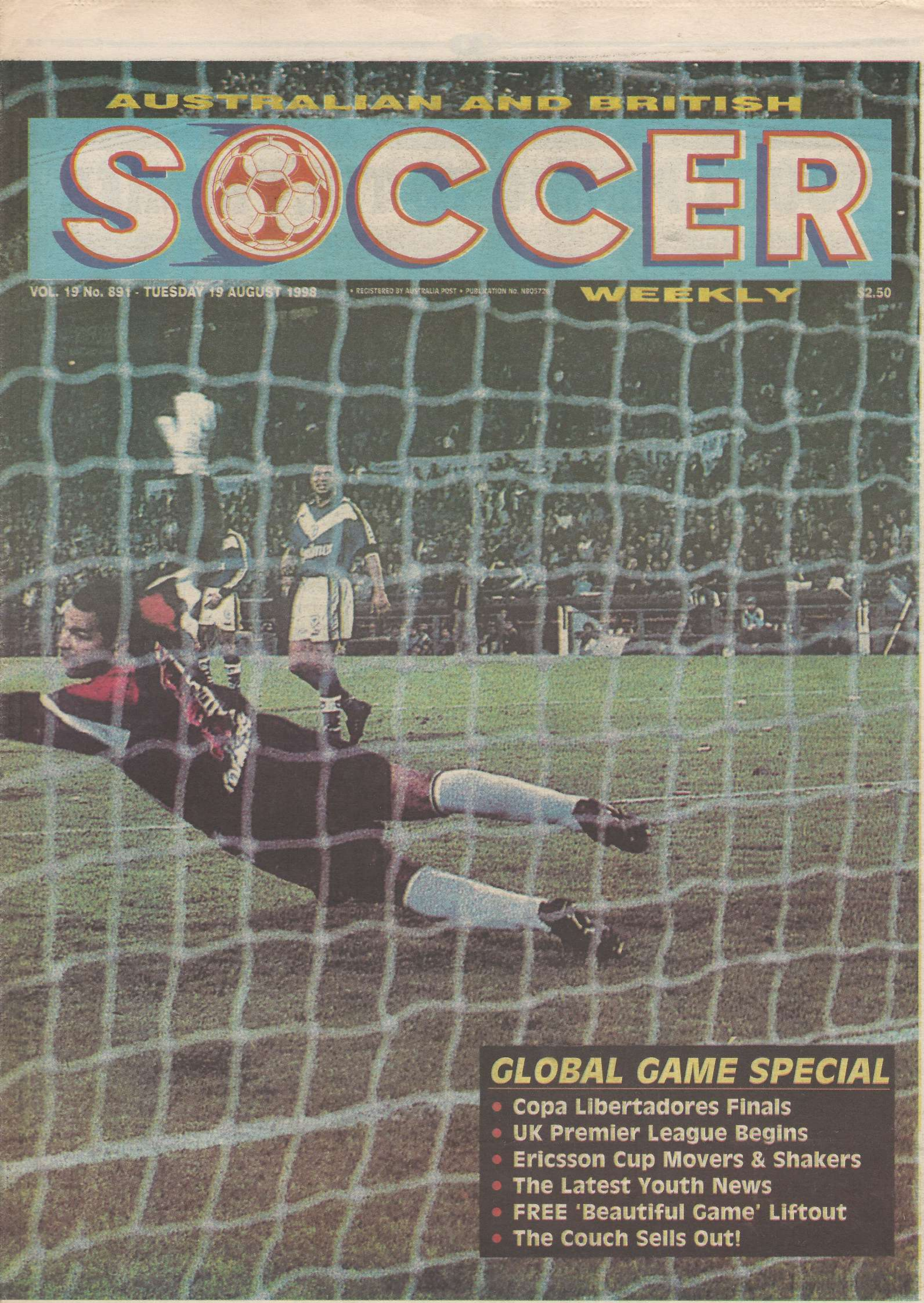

GLOBAL GAME SPECIAL

- Copa Libertadores Finals
- UK Premier League Begins
- Ericsson Cup Movers & Shakers
- The Latest Youth News
- FREE 'Beautiful Game' Liftout
- The Couch Sells Out!

IN THIS WEEK'S EPISODE...

DOUR OPENING TO THE PREMIER

PREMIER LEAGUE SUMMARY

Blackburn Rovers 0
Derby County 0
Attendance: 24,007
Coventry City 2
Darren Huckerby 10, Dion Dublin 16
Chelsea 1
Gustavo Poyet 37
HT: 2-1; Att: 23,042
Everton 0
Aston Villa 0
Att: 40,112
Manchester United 2
Teddy Sheringham 79, David 'Boo' Beckham 90
Leicester City 2
Emile Heskey 7, Tony Cottee 76
HT: 0-1; Att: 55,052
Middlesbrough 0
Leeds United 0
Att: 34,162
Newcastle United 0
Charlton Athletic 0
Att: 36,719
Red card: Richard Rufus (Charlton) 25
Sheffield Wednesday 0
West Ham United 1
Ian Wright 85
HT: 0-0; Att: 30,236
Wimbledon 3
Robbie Earle 48, Efan Ekoku 59, 90
Tottenham Hotspur 1
Ruel Fox 74
HT: 0-0; Att: 23,031
Southampton 1
Ostenstad 37
Liverpool 2
Riedle 39, Owen 72
Playing Monday:
Arsenal v Nottingham Forest (after ABSW deadline)

By ABSW

David Beckham fought back in fine style after being criticised non-stop for his World Cup bungle, when he saved Manchester United from an embarrassing defeat with a late goal to earn a 2-2 home draw with Leicester City on Saturday's opening day.

United, bidding to bring back the title it won for four years out of five before Arsenal's triumph last season, seemed to be heading for certain defeat when went two goals down to the gritty Leicester, which beat it 1-0 at Old Trafford last season.

But England midfielder David Beckham set-up United's first for Teddy Sheringham in the 79th minute before grabbing a dramatic equalizer in the 90th with a lovely free from just outside the box

Coventry, one of the league's most tenacious sides under Scot Gordon Strachan, brought the glamour pussies of Chelsea down to earth; the Londoners crashed 2-1 to the Highfield Road fighters.

Double-winner Arsenal plays Premiership newboys Nottingham Forest at Highbury on Monday (after we go to press).

Liverpool, with last week's cover boy for ABSW, Mikey Owen, beat Southampton. German veteran K.H. Riedle and the boy himself scored.

Meanwhile back at Old Trafford, and Leicester silenced the 55,000 capacity crowd at Old Trafford when England B striker Emile Heskey pounced to give Martin O'Neill's side the lead after just just six minutes.

United could not clear a corner and Muzzy Izzet ran along the deadball line before pulling the ball back for Heskey to poke home its first goal of the new Premiership campaign off the post when subbed.

United boss Alex Ferguson gave a league debut to much-criticized Japp Stam, a club record signing at 10.75 million pounds, but after a poor first half the Dutch defender took an early shower.

United went further behind to a 76th minute strike by veteran striker Tony Cottee, who scored the winner at Old Trafford last season. Cottee was until fairly recently, playing in Asia.

United clawed within a goal in the 78th minute when substitute Teddy Sheringham got his head to Beckham's drive after he had been on the pitch for only a minute.

United equalized three minutes into stoppage time when Beckham curled in a 25-yard free-kick.

Chelsea paraded 12 million pounds ($24 million) of new foreign talent as it launched its bid for Premiership title glory at Coventry.

Italian international Pierluigi Casiraghi, World Cup winner Marcel Desailly and Albert Ferrer were all included in the starting lineup though there was no place for Brian Laudrup, who was ruled out with a back injury.

But the stylish Londoners were stunned when the unfancied Midlanders stormed into a two-goal lead inside 15 minutes with goals from England squad players Darren Huckerby and Dion Dublin.

Uruguayan hardman midfielder Gustavo Poyet threw Chelsea a lifeline struck with a trademark header from Dennis Wise's free kick eight minutes from the break.

Tottenham's hopes off getting off to a winning start following last season's painful struggle against relegation were shattered by the Wimbledon 'Crazy Gang'.

Spurs had the rare luxury of a fully fit squad to choose from, but it struggled from the outset before second half goals from Robbie Earle and Efan Ekoku condemned them to defeat.

Winger Ruel Fox pulled one back on 74 minutes before Nigerian striker Ekoku grabbed a second on the final whistle to seal a 3-1 win for the Dons.

Former Arsenal hero Ian Wright enjoyed a lovely debut for West Ham when he scored the only goal of the game to sink Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough.

The 34-year-old England striker, a close season capture by Hammers boss Harry Redknapp, missed an easy chance in the first half before grabbing the winner six minutes from time.

Elsewhere, goals were hard to come by.

Newcastle were booed off the pitch after they were held to a 0-0 draw at home to Premiership newboys Charlton who were reduced to 10 men early in the first half.

Defender Richard Rufus was sent off in the 25th minute for violent conduct, but Kenny Dalglish's side, which narrowly avoided relegation last season, was unable to take advantage and the Geordie fans let their feelings be known.

It was also goalless at Ewood Park where UEFA Cup contenders Blackburn Rovers were held to a 0–0 draw by Derby while new-look Everton had to settle for a draw at home to Aston Villa despite dominating most of the match.

Scotland midfielder John Collins suffered a nightmare debut for the Merseysiders when he missed a penalty after just eight minutes.

Middlesbrough and Leeds were also unable to find the net in a all battle of attrition at the Riverside stadium.

It was a difficult match for Paul Gascoigne, who was wearing a black armband in memory of a friend who died just days earlier.

The England discard, making his first top flight appearance since 1991, was booked for lashing out at Leeds' midfielder Lee Bowyer in the first half but was lucky not to be sent off.

In the first division Crystal Palace, a team with a decidedly Australian connection, went down 3-1 to Birmingham City in Birmingham.

Jaap Stan (left) and Muzzy Izzet ... United made an unimpressive start to the new year.

More UK on page 29.

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◆ **Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to issue date.**

STOP PRESS

Tony Labbozzetta, president of Sydney club Marconi, is expected some time this week to be nominated for the position of commissioner on the board of Soccer Australia. The sudden resignation last Thursday of South Australia's commissioner Fred Lenzi has left a vacancy on the Board of Soccer Australia.

Nominations for the Commissioner's seat now vacant by Lenzi's resignation, close this Friday. It's no secret that Soccer Australia Chairman David Hill has repeatedly clashed with him in the hostile arena of Soccer politics.

STOP PRESS

All semi-finals fixture in Super League, Division One and Division Two set down for Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, were called off by the NSW Soccer Federation due to heavy rains. There are still quite a few fixtures to decide the finalists for this year.

In Super League, Parramatta and Bonnyrigg's now will play Thursday night at Melita Stadium (kick-off 8.15pm), and Macarthur is set to play Bankstown on Thursday night at Lynwood Park. The first lot of finals has now been put back to next Sunday (August 23).

In First Division, the final five cannot be altered in first grade but there are still plenty of games in the lower grades which will have an effect on the finals make-up. These games are set for during the week and the finals hopefully will be played on Sunday August 23.

Division Two's washout sees there whole round being transferred to next weekend, the finals scheduled to start the Wednesday (August 26) following.

Australian News

SYDNEY UTD IN INDONESIA

By John Economos

David Mitchell, Sydney United's outstanding player-coach flew his squad out today, (Tuesday), bound for Indonesia. United will play the Indonesian national team in a friendly at the National stadium in Jakarta tomorrow night.

Travelling with the United squad will be newly signed mid-fielder-cum-striker, Nathan Day, who Mitchell signed recently from Adelaide Sharks.

Mitchell last season performed nothing less than miracles when he rebuilt a severely depleted United squad. No less than seven players from the 1996 Grand Final side that played against the Brisbane Strikers had departed.

It's the same story again for this season as Big Mitch has lost another eight players, including skipper Paul Bilokapic, goal-keepers Zeljko Kalac and John Perosh, Mark Rudan, Marcus Phillips as well as the retirement of sterling central marker, Velimir Kupresak.

Australian World Cup striker John Aloisi, currently still on the books with Portsmouth in the England Division One, last week scored for his side in the League Cup clash against Worthington.

The South Australian born international not only earned a penalty for Portsmouth but scored the second at Fratton Park in Portsmouth's 3-1 victory in the first leg.

Newcastle Breakers' newly signed coach Lee Sterrey over the past 12 days has moved fast to bolster his NSL squad with some new signings.

As reported some weeks ago, Sterrey snapped up giant goal-keeper Bobby Catlin.

Late last week again Sterrey moved fast, this time snapping up two goalscorers, one from the NSW State League and one from the NSL.

Sterrey stated to ABSW last night:" I've signed up mobile striker John Buonavoglia from the Leichhardt Tigers as well Andrew Borghetto from the Adelaide Sharks.

"John's 22 years old and Andrew is 27.

"I feel both will be able to do a job for me in the coming season.

"Defender Andy Roberts who had left Newcastle last season to play for Canberra Cosmos, has expressed some interest in returning to us as does midfielder Scotty Thomas who last season was sold to Adelaide City.

"I've got a couple of very good goalkeepers in Bobby Catlin and Brad Swancott but also have an outstanding 16-year-old in Jason Kos.

"Jason looks to have the goods to develop into a future international, and standing at 6'2" will do him no harm at all," stated Sterrey.

But Sterrey's hunt for players has not ended.

Right now he's looking very closely at a well experienced midfielder playing in the NSW Super League as well as another striker, from the NSL who is based in Victoria.

Sterrey renown for having a sharp eye for junior talent, added: "Newcastle for years has boasted a stack of outstanding juniors in the region and it's just a matter of digging them out and bringing them along with some development."

According to the League's draft draw, Newcastle faces the Gippsland Falcons in their opening match of the new season.

SPIRIT PLAY IN MANLY

By Aidan Ormond

This Wednesday night those in Sydney's north shore will get a chance to see their team play when Northern Spirit line-up against Brookvale at Brookvale Oval, the home of Manly rugby league side. The game is scheduled for 7pm unless Sydney's rain makes it unplayable.

Spirit, who have just signed Ian Crook (former Spurs and Norwich City midfielder) and keeper Peter Blazincic, will also be featuring new player Phil Moss, a 26 year-old defender from Eastern Suburbs.

The great thing about this particular signing is that Moss is a north shore-born player. He was also a member of the Warringah Dolphins' Super League winning side 1995 and is highly-regarded by Graham Arnold. The player will also become a development officer with Spirit.

In other news, the club's season tickets sales are "going through the roof", according to Spirit's media manager David Mason.

Finally, Spirit will head west in September to play against the WA state team.

BRAZILIAN MAGIC TOO MUCH FOR GEELONG

By Roy Hay

Ericsson Cup giant Carlton paraded its galaxy of stars against a Geelong representative team at Bell Park on Sunday and won by two goals to nil, both scored by Brazilian trialist Alex Moriero. Moriero came to Australia to visit relatives and had a series of games with Bentleigh Greens in the Victorian Premier League, before trying his luck at Carlton. The coach was very pleased with his performance in this game, remarking on his good close control.

Geelong was boosted by Carlton sweeper David Cervinski in the first half, and he was joined by his brother Adrian for the second. In the opening spell Geelong used Bell Park's Adrian Begg to mark the younger Cervinski, while North's Steven Tillinger picked up Moriero.

In midfield, Zoran Trajcevski, Richard O'Sullivan and Bobby Kules gave little away to the Carlton stars led by Andrew Marth, desperate to play in this game to gain match fitness, Lubo Lapsansky, Mark Atkinson and youngster Cameron Pino. Geelong might have had a penalty when Serdar Pir's mist-imed challenge upset Stanko Kvesic in the box but referee Jim Ouliaris waved play on.

There was no score at the break, reflecting the effort put in by the Geelong lads and the discipline they showed. In the second half Carlton's superior fitness and skills began to show and when substitute Andy Vargas played Moriero through, and the big striker coolly slipped the ball past Bell Park's excellent keeper Tim Kellett, who had a fine game.

Carlton got a second goal by Moriero from the penalty spot after a handball out on the edge of the area, which owed more to the uneven pitch than much intent by the Geelong defender.

The match was part of Carlton's pre-season and its commitment to feeder clubs throughout Victoria. Last week it was in Shepparton where 150 youngsters turned out for a soccer clinic run by the players and youth coach and former Socceroo Jeff Olver. Over 400 attended the subsequent game and the Geelong day also attracted a substantial crowd. All proceeds go to the development of junior soccer in the respective areas.

Afterwards Eddie Krncevic, the Carlton coach, said, "I'm very satisfied with this pre-season game. Geelong were quite solid and gave us a good work-out in the first half". I then asked him if he had any memories of his days as a junior at Corio, and this brought an immediate response. "When I was about six years old I used to go down to training. One day I got on the bus and we went to Ringwood Wilhelmina. It was an Under-12 game, I think, and I was only seven. I don't think I got a touch, but they let me play. My dad gave me a hiding when I came home. I always feel at home when I come back to Geelong. I have more relatives here than anywhere else and I am proud to be from this beautiful part of the world".

Carlton striker Andy Vlahos is currently trialling with and impressing Tranmere Rovers in England. Carlton is keen to have the in-form striker for the forthcoming Ericsson Cup season, but if he does obtain a contract, then Carlton will use any transfer fee to import a senior player from England. Carlton General Manager Lou Sticca said: "That is the missing piece of the jigsaw here. If we can bring an established name we should have the squad Eddie wants".

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Australian News

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AUSSIE KEEPERS ON MOVE

By Aidan Ormond

Northern Spirit have now completed their keeper buying with the addition of classy custodian Peter Blazincic. The former Adelaide Sharks man was highly regarded when he left for China in 1996. He was voted the top goalkeeper in China for the past two seasons.

He will arrive in Sydney to take up his place in the Northern Spirit squad on September 22.

The signature of Blazincic comes on top of the already strong goalkeeping ranks at Northern Spirit which includes former Sydney United No.1 John Perosh and exciting 22-year-old Paul Henderson from NSW-based Sutherland.

In assembling his squad, Northern Spirit player coach Graham Arnold has pulled together an impressive attacking line-up that includes Clayton Zane and Robbie Slater. Now he has completed his goalkeeping recruitment which he is confident will provide a 'Fortress North Sydney'.

"Having Peter come to the club is a tremendous boost to our chances of making a positive start in the Ericsson Cup," Arnold said. "He is a very talented goalkeeper and, along with John Perosh and Paul Henderson, he will give us a solid last line of defence.

"We now have three top class goalkeeper and whoever gets the green light to start the season between the sticks will have to stay on his toes to keep his place in the first team.

"I believe strong competition for places breeds more committed performances and we certainly have that amongst our goalkeepers."

It also continues the trend of Australian players returning to home to bolster the National League through the Ericsson Cup debutants.

"Peter Blazincic is a quality addition to our squad," said Northern Spirit Chairman Remo Nogarotto. "He has been playing brilliantly in China and we have no doubts he will be a valuable asset to our club in this initial year.

"Peter's decision to return home just reinforces the belief we have at Northern Spirit that players will stay in Australia, or come home, if they can play full-time football."

Still on Aussie keepers, and Socceroo keeper Zeljko Kalac has signed with Roda JC for about $3m over three years, with an option to extend for two. This is the third time 'Spider' has tried his luck in Europe after abortive attempts in England.

Fausto De Amicis has turned his back on more lucrative offers to sign a two year deal with the South Melbourne Soccer Club. The keenly sought after Socceroo and Vice Captain of South Melbourne displayed the loyalty and professionalism that South Melbourne officials and supporters have come to expect from him.

And Dwyght Tuffnell reports that Altona Magic's finals chances have been dealt a blow with the loss of star striker Sash Becvinovski. Becvinovski left for Belgium last week for a three week trial with St Truiden.

Arnie

Becvinovski missed a penalty and a simple headed chance in the Magic's 0-1 defeat to St Albans Saints in the Major Semi Final at Knights Stadium on Sunday.

"It's obviously come at a bad time" said Altona coach Ian Dobson.

"I don't know whether it had anything to do with his finishing today, he's normally very reliable."

Becvinovski topped the goalscoring charts in the Premier League this season with 23 goals.

Despite his outstanding scoring record in the Premier League Becvinovski, 26, has played just over 50 games at National League levels in stints with Melbourne JUST, Wollongong, Macedonia, Gippsland Falcons and Melbourne Zebras.

The trial was organised by his agent in Belgium after he had sent them a tape of himself and they were impressed enough to invite him over for three weeks.

He has become frustrated at the lack of opportunities outside of the Premier League in recent times.

"I score goal every year and it doesn't do any wonders for me" said Becvinovski.

"I'm running out of time, there's nothing here for me. I've only got Altona and that's it...I've got to try something else."

COMMONWEALTH BANK CUP

Keira Technology High School progressed to a semi-final show down with a star-studded Westfields High School in the Commonwealth Bank Cup after eliminating Orange High 2-1 in Orange (on Wednesday 12th August).

Keira played superbly to dominate the Orange match but failed to capitalise on its many chances. With man-of-the-match Steven Papovski and co-defenders Shane Lockhart and Chris Milovski dominant, Keira exerted constant pressure on a tough and committed Orange back-line.

Keira's wide midfielders Christina Zebras and Michael Stojonovski constantly taunted Orange with their pace and skill.

The scores were locked at 0-0 with 17 minutes remaining when the referee awarded a obvious corner kick to Orange. Orange midfielder Wallace rose imperiously at the back post to drive home a header.

Within a minute, Keira was awarded a free kick 20 metres from goal. Australia pep and Keira captain Steven Dimitievski had a brilliant shot parried by the keep and Vasco Sobevski slammed home an equaliser.

The game went into sudden-death extra-time. Four minutes into time added on, Zelvis ran on to a superb pass from Brendan Sartalak to steer home past the stranded Orange keeper. Keira's semi final will be played at Seymour Shaw Sutherland.

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Australian News

SWIMMING WITH SCHAEFER'S SHARKS

By Mark Stavroulakis

Adelaide Sharks is a club that is now being feared. The reason? New coach Manfred Schaefer has taken over and has really shaken up the first team squad with new signings and a strict training regime.

After coaching Marconi two seasons ago he wanted a rest from soccer. Now, Manfred has recharged his batteries, and is more enthusiastic than ever in putting Adelaide Sharks on the map. He has changed the team drastically, making wholesale changes and has given a new "facelift" to the team he is hoping can guide Adelaide Sharks to their first ever title.

When he stepped in, new signings were his first priority in making the team a much stronger outfit.

First, Schaefer plucked Paul Souris from his old club Marconi. Manfred knew everything about Paul and has stated that he is "a good a reliable defender who will always perform at his best, giving one hundred percent for the team."

Another major signing was former Sydney Olympic striker Derek Poimer. He has been training hard with his new team and his coach believes that he will make a huge impact on the Ericsson Cup this season. Poimer is known to be fragile and could injure easily and, so, has taken a different approach to his training methods.

"I am sure that the Sydney Olympic fans will surely miss the character of a player like Derek, but the Sharks will reap the rewards."

Lou Hristodolou has also been linked to the Sharks, according to our sources in Adelaide. Schaefer has indicated his interest in buying the player, after the midfielder had a year that he would rather forget, hardly getting a mention last year. Manfred will hopefully spark his engines and bring him back to that same player he was a couple of years ago.

In saying that, Adelaide have also lost a couple of players who were hard to replace. Pablo Cardozo, the elegant striker has decided to join forces with Olympic after his stint in Austria. Finally, the scoring machine Jimmy Tsekinis has parted company and has joined the 'blue army' in last year's champions South Melbourne.

Schaefer expressed his interest in Peter Blazincic, but the keeper decided to join newcomers Northern Spirit. "I don't force anyone, whoever wants to stay can stay."

It is also rumoured that Sharks' new president Con Makris has offered Manfred a guest player from Greece in order to pick up crowd attendances. There is also a mystery player who the Sharks are close to signing, but he did not want to unveil the name of the player.

Pre-season is well under way, Manfred has instituted twice a day training, having to wake up at 7am for the first session. This is something the players are not used to, but eventually they will get adjusted to it as whatever Manfred says, goes!

Friendly games have been organised, but the clash between the Sharks and the Wolves at the Wolves Den will be the first hitout for the club. The coach has signed a one-year contract with the club, and has left everything back in Sydney (even his family).

Adelaide Sharks have has always been overshadowed by its city rivals Adelaide City. It is about time the Sharks get one back.

Beware, Manfred is coming, and the Sharks are going to do something they have always lacked: bite!

ALLSOPP A HIT AT MAN CITY

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Daniel Allsopp has signed for English second division club Manchester City. He made his debut as an 87th minute substitute in the 3-0 home win over Blackpool on the first day of the new season.

And just three days later he scored his first goal for the club in the 2-0 win over Notts County in the League Cup after coming on as a sub again.

The former South Melbourne and Carlton striker moves for $26,000, with half each going to Port Melbourne Sharks and Carlton.

Another Aussie that could be joining the overseas ranks is Carlton striker Andy Vlahos.

Vlahos is in the middle of a two week trial with English first division club Tranmere Rovers.

The Blues have lost Robert Trajkovski (Perth Glory), Kresimir Marusic (Northern Spirit) as well as John Markovski.

There are also doubts over Simon Colosimo and Marco Bresciano.

Both are with the Young Socceroos at the moment, but are expected to go to Blackburn Rovers, where they have been invited to train.

Colosimo has already been over there, but was injured shortly before he was due to take part in a first team friendly game and returned to Australia to link up with the Young Socceroos for their upcoming World Youth Championships qualifiers.

Eddie Krncevic

Daniel Allsopp... making news in England.

On the plus side, the Blues have Brazilian Alexander Moreira on trial. Moreira, who played the last five games of the Premier League season with Bentleigh Greens, scored a hat trick last weekend in a 4-0 win over a Shepparton select side in country Victoria.

Coach Eddie Krncevic said on Moreira: "He's got some good touches and knows where the goals are, but it's too early to make a decision on signing him."

DAVIDSON A CAVALIER?

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Former Socceroo Alan Davidson is in the frame to become the next coach of Green Gully Cavaliers. Gully was guided through half of the season by Andrew Marth, and although they would like him to continue, his new club Carlton has ruled out any possiblity of him juggling coaching and playing for the Blues.

Green Gully president Charles Farrugia said that the club had "a few names in mind". Altona Magic coach Ian Dobson is another the Cavaliers are believed to be interested in.

Meanwhile, Farrugia has welcomed the idea of a second division to the National League.

The proposed division, which both the Victorian and New South Wales federations are seeking, would run at the same time alongside the Ericsson Cup.

The planned second division will comprise teams mostly from New South Wales and Victoria and ideally would have a promotion and relegation system to the top division.

Green Gully, with terrific facilities and considerable finances behind them, would be one of the Victorian clubs best equipped to take part.

"We feel there's a need for changes, there's got to be something for the clubs to look forward to," Farrugia said.

State leagues around Australia have stagnated with no promotion available to the Ericsson Cup.

"A club like Altona Magic, who have won the championship for the last three years can't go anywhere but down," said Farrugia.

He said that promotion and relegation to the Ericsson Cup was vital.

"Without it, it would be a waste of time."

It is expected that it would cost a club $250,000 a season to operate.

"It would cost a lot of money to be involved in, but I'm sure it would succeed," he concluded.

Andrew Marth ... Carlton commitments preclude him from coaching Gully.
pic by Roy Hay

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Australian News

REGGAE BOYZ OF SOUTH PACIFIC

By Mark Stavroulakis

Apart from Australia, in the Oceania section few other nations can get a look in. In seasons gone by, it has always been Australia qualifying for a chance to make the World Cup.

Currently touring in Sydney is the New Caledonian national side, preparing for next year's South Pacific Championships.

New Caledonia is situated right in the heart of the South Pacific. It is renowned heavily for its beautiful beaches and is a haven for tourists. I was fortunate enough to bump into the national team coach Tavergenx Gilles, who intrigued me with the story of the national team.

New Caledonia has a mission here in Sydney: to try and get as much training and games as possible before they head back home — real games and training come around once in a blue moon for them.

Already three games have been scheduled, one against NSW Super League team Canterbury Marrickville, and the other two against National League teams UTS Olympic and Marconi. All games will be played at the Valentine Sports Park, and the team is currently staying in the wonderful surroundings of Parklea.

The Reggae Boyz of the South Pacific have 18 players in their squad, and soccer is their second priority as they need to work just provide sufficient funds to support themselves and their families.

Coach Gilles also works as a police officer back at home. When I asked if he would like to become a police officer in Australia, he turned pale. "I would not want to be a police officer in Australia as the scene is too brutal, I enjoy the life in New Caledonia, it is much more laid back".

Being a French province, all players are entitled to a French passport, so playing in France is their main aim.

A large minority of New Caledonians play in France, notably Real Madrid's Christian Karembeu who is hailed as a country hero back home. Coach Gilles then spoke about the stature of Australian Soccer.

"Austalian soccer has picked up and is much better then soccer back at home. I watched the development side of youth soccer and saw little kids at the age of 13 playing. (It was in fact Saturday's Youth League Fixture between UTS Olympic and Melita). I was surprised in the tactics and skill level and I also saw a number of good quality players especially UTS' under 13's."

Coincidentally, UTS Olympic under 13s are currently undefeated and are on the verge of breaking a youth league record.

UTS Olympic have been invited to tour New Caledonia, both youth and senior sides. This will be a valuable experience for the New Caledonians as this will boast the stature of soccer.

What I can say is that the New Caledonians were as eager as ever. It showed me how much passion they have for this sport. You never know they might even qualify for the World Cup one day ... don't laugh it could happen. After all, the original Reggae Boyz from Jamaica were in France this year!

Sydney Olympic juniors with the New Caledonians

THE ZONE!

By Mark Stavroulakis

How do the selections of NSW junior teams take place? Does a coach go around all the youth league clubs and select a particular player, or is there special day in which players interested may go and try out?

The answer is quite simple The Zone Talented Athlete Program run by the NSW Soccer Federation.

At the ages of 13,14 and 15, players are all put into their regional zones, depending on where they are situated. First and foremost you must try out for the regional side, for instance, Bankstown, Gladesville, Eastern Suburbs and a whole host of other regional sides for a chance to be one of the lucky 18 players to be picked for the state team.

Once the team for regionals is selected, there is training twice a week and a game every second Sunday. These games determine whether you are good enough to play for the state, as there are a number of selectors judging you from the outskirts of Parklea. There is a points system which acts as a guide on who plays the best in every game scheduled.

This process runs for about three months and then it breaks as the NSW Youth League is played. The players in the zones must perform as well or better, at their club games in order to reach the cut off mark for the state team. Then there is a process called the 'waiting game' were hundreds of kids are sitting at their letterboxers waiting anxiously, and wondering if they were going to get that elusive letter.

After this stage, camps are conducted at the Valentine Sports Complex on the School Holidays, which run for a week. The best 40 kids out of the whole regional scene are picked and that is where the final stage of picking a state team takes place.

As we speak, the under 13, 14 and 15s teams have has been picked. There will be 18 players in each side and they are regarded as the cream of the crop. All these players are gearing up for the state titles in October, which will be held in country towns across NSW. This spreads the soccer message.

The coaches of the state teams have also been picked. The under 13s have Glen Fontana, a former National league player. The Under 14s are guided by Greg Arnkutnoff, while the 15s are coached by Kelly Cross, both these players are also former National League players. All coaches agreed that within all the NSW state teams, there is plenty of talent.

Harry Kewell was a product of this Academy so they must be doing something right.

From The Zone to the Premier League in England: not bad.

NSW JUNIORS

IVANOVIC THE KEY IN SA FINALS?

By Rob Pepicelli

Radio Station 5RTI 92.7 FM will be broadcasting both the Premier League Elimination and Qualifying final from 12.00pm. The top five final series is upon us with a double header at Hindmarsh Stadium, first game sees the do-or-die Elimination Final between the Blue Eagles and White City Warriors, with White City having a psychological advantage over the Blue's after a convincing 3-1 win in last week's minor league game, which gave the Warriors the last spot in the top five playoffs.

The Blues' coach Zoran Karadzic opted not to play and also rested regular starters in Donato Deieso and Joe Cutillo. White City were without Adelaide City loan player Milan Ivanovic due to injury.

So the Elimination Final will be a classic contest with White City coach Rocky Aloisi, hoping to have Milan Ivanovic fit for this clash, being quietly confident of making the first semi-final.

The Blues, once they hit the smooth surface of Hindmarsh Stadium, seem to grow another leg, with player coach Zoran Karadzic sure to use his influence.

The second game will be the Qualifying final between the Campbelltown Red Devils and Croydon Kings, the winner qualifying for the second semi-final against minor Premiers West Torrens Birkalla and the loser living another day to play in the first semi-final.

Both teams have had one win a piece during the home and away series with the Kings snatching a last minute winner in their last encounter. Red Devils boss Mario Boffa will have play maker Carlo Talladira returning from suspension as well as the 'Buzz Bomb' (Joe Barbaro) from injury.

The Devils have had the best defensive record of the season with the Menechella brothers Michael, Daniel and David and sweeper Scott Ryschka in great form — add the goalkeeping skills of Andy Allen and the Devils can certainly give the Kings a run for their money.

Croydon Kings coach Jan Kierno will certainly have some tricks up his sleeves, having rested gun striker Joel Porter in last week's game against the Raiders, the Kings will also welcome back recently married Slawcek Nowak to hopefully help his team gain the upper hand.

State League finals has the Para Hills Knights in a vital battle against Noarlunga Bulldogs in the Elimination final, with the Qualifying final seeing Enield City Falcons against the Adelaide Cobras.

Other news from the South Australian scene ... Greg Hagias the Port Lion Pirates striker will be trialling with national league club Gippsland Falcons, and also Pirates keeper Robert Matosevic is keen to try out for the Falcons.

Former Collingwood soccer club player Rick Cerracchio now playing with the Pirates will also travel interstate to trial with David Mitchell's Sydney United.

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Australian News

NATIONALS A HUGE SUCCESS

The 1998 National Championships held last week in Brisbane was rated a huge success by ASSSA National Secretary Chris James.

Held at Brisbane Grammar School's new sports complex in Northgate, the week-long tournament crowned a new champion state in the Men's competition and continued the winning sequence in the Women's.

In the Men's competition, South Australia won their first ever national title and remained undefeated throughout the week. New South Wales was placed second and Victoria third.

The Women's competition saw New South Wales continue their reign as champions when they beat Queensland on goal difference while Victoria picked up third position.

The Men's Player of the Tournament was South Australia's Josh Christison while the Women's Player of the Tournament was NSW's Jodie Randall.

Josh also collected the inaugural Peter Grguric Medal named after one of the 1997 Australian team members who tragically drowned in Melbourne earlier this year.

Top goalscorers were Heath Gillett from ACT with 7 goals and Belinda Dawney from NSW with 5.

Bother Mens and Womens Australian representative teams were announced at the closing ceremony with both sides touring overseas in January 1999.

	Men's Division	Women's Division
National Champions	South Australia	New South Wales
Top Goalscorer	Heath Gillett (ACT)	Belinda Dawney (NSW)
Player of the Tournament	Josh Christison (SA)	Jodie Randall (NSW)

GILLIAN'S ONE OF THE BOYS

By Graham Cooke

Gillian Thomson is playing with the boys in the ACT Premier League's under-23 competition "because I want to improve my soccer skills to their full potential".

"I'm not knocking the ACT women's competition, and I'm certainly not saying I am too good for it," the former Australian youth international said. "It's a personal thing. I just want to be the very best I can, and I feel I can do that by constantly extending myself in a quality men's competition."

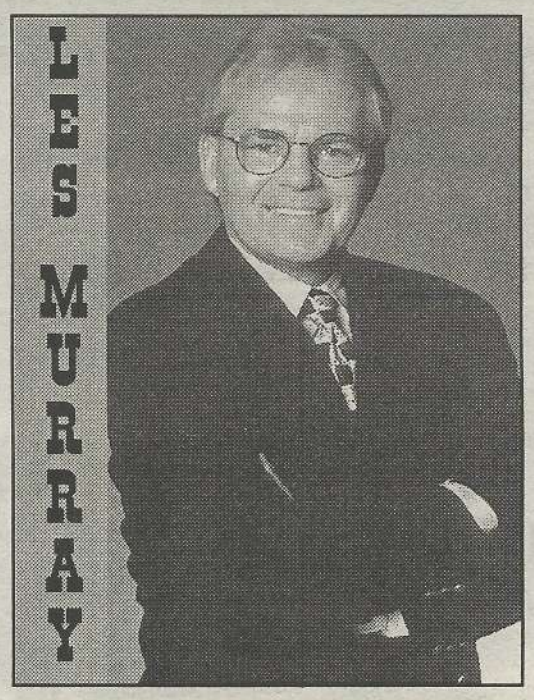
She came to the ACT from Sydney to take up a sports coaching course at the University of Canberra and originally began pre-season training with the University men's team just to keep fit.

"I thought I was doing well, and when the time came for me to make a choice I asked the head coach, Tony Olivera, if I could play, and he picked me in the under-23 squad," she said.

"People keep asking me how I cope with the physical play, and I tell them that girls can be tough as well. I get stuck in, and while sometimes the sheer brute power of opponents is a bit daunting, I've got used to it."

A 22-year-old winger with close ball skills and a good turn of speed, Thomson still harbours hopes of selection in the Australian senior squad, but also wants to play overseas "perhaps in Italy, where you get paid", she said.

Gillian Thompson ... playing in the U/23 comp in the ACT Premier.



The news blew in like a chilling wind in the hotbed of Andalucia in southern Spain. That's where I was having a July holiday when I read, in one of the Spanish sports dailies, that the gang of 16, that is 16 of the richest clubs in Europe have had a secret meeting in an obscure London hotel where they conspired to form a breakaway European Superleague.

Jaque a la UEFA, checkmate to UEFA, was the jumbo headline. The 16 aristocrats would be joined by eight others, at their own invitation, to form a 24 team league, split into two groups of 12 each conducted on a league system with the two group winners meeting in a climactic final. Matches would be played midweek with all teams - or so they think - retaining their places in their various domestic leagues.

The gang of 16 were Real Madrid, Barcelona, Juventus, Inter Milan, AC Milan, Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool, Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund, Bayer Leverkusen, Ajax Amsterdam, PSV Eindhoven, Paris Saint Germain, Benfica and Anderlecht.

All denied the story at first. Less than a fortnight later they all issued written statements confirming they had taken part in discussions'.

Both UEFA and their big brother FIFA reacted threateningly. If it was to go ahead, all teams taking part and all players would be immediately banned from all competitions under official jurisdiction.

That is from all domestic football and, for the players, all international football including the World Cup.

The conspiracy of course was hatched a long time ago and the notion of a Superleague has been anticipated for a long time. The gangleader is Silvio Berlusconi, media magnate, former Italian prime minister and president of AC Milan. Men of similar ilk, club owners and presidents, all rich, all powerful and hungry for more, have fallen in line with him.

In my view the whole idea is outrageously bad. Firstly because it is driven not by a sense of vision but by a sense of avarice and power. These so called elite clubs, rich as they already are, just want to get richer and condemn smaller clubs to the scrapheap.

Great new tournaments and competitions, great footbal ideas, have been developed before. But till now by men of vision who wanted to make a great game greater. Like Jules Rimet who created the World Cup or the men who pioneered the European Cup, none of whom was affiliated with any club or team, only with football and its future.

But these men take the view that it is their teams and their glamorous players which attract the fans and the revenue to the existing competitions in which there are, according to them, too many small, mediocre clubs who bring no financial return.

For instance when Milan plays Rosenborg of Norway in Trondheim, Rosenborg gets a full house which Milan then sees as a subsidy they effectively pay. The fact that Rosenborg was actually good enough to knock Milan out of the European Cup a coupe of seasons ago of course is conveniently dismissed as irrelevant. It's the money, not the results that count.

Which is why such a Superleague would be no more than a competition of convenience between the elite clubs who would ensure none of them ever gets relegated and they would survive forever, playing each other all the while watching the money just roll on in.

I have always been among those who actually apllauded and welcomed the immense level of commercial success that football has become in recent decades. Let it be prosperous and financially healthy, I said.

But the commercial bubble is about to burst and turn into an orgy of avarice that will threaten to destroy the game.

And make no mistake there are real dangers here. If the concept goes ahead and FIFA then bans, say, Manchester United from playing in the Premier League and their players from playing in the World Cup, the said club and players will sue FIFA I the European courts. And the European courts will ask:

"Who the hell is FIFA? And who are they to tell teams and players where to play and where not to play so long as they are not breaking the law."

Suddenly the power of football government will move from the offices of FIFA to the courts and before you know to the laws of the game will not be set by the International Football Association Board but some judge in Brussels.

Think about it.

Suddenly the power of football government will move from the offices of FIFA to the courts and before you know to the laws of the game will not be set by the International Football Association Board but some judge in Brussels.

Bruno Jasiczek, the well-respected former Czechoslovakian first division player, has again started up his 'Geronimo Goalkeeper School' clinics.

For the modest fee of just $25 per session, young Soccer students are able to rapidly learn from the master who possesses many years of experience.

A fully badged member of the U.K. FA Coaching Association, Bruno specialises in training all young goalkeepers.

For further details and enrolments see ad right.

At a 'Geronimo Goalkeeper School clinic Bruno Jasiczek (right) and star NSL players Michael Reda and Anthony Surjan from the Wolves.

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Australia-wide

Northern NSW

NBN SOCCER LEAGUE RESULTS ROUND 21

1st GRADE

Weston	2	Belmont Swansea	0
Easts Maitland	2	Weathertex	1
Highfields	2	Broadmeadow	1
Weathertex	3	Adamstown	2
Edgeworth	1	Hamilton	0

Wallsend v Broadmeadow no result given
Edgeworth v Toronto postponed all grades
Cessnock v Hamilton postponed all grades
Adamstown v Highfields postponed all grades

RESERVE GRADE

Weston	1	Belmont Swansea	0
Easts Maitland	3	Weathertex	1
Broadmeadow	0	Highfields	0
Weathertex	1	Adamstown	0
Hamilton	2	Edgeworth	1

UNDER 18's

Weston	0	Belmont Swansea	0
Easts Maitland	2	Weathertex	1
Broadmeadow	0	Highfields	0
Weathertex	1	Adamstown	0
Hamilton	2	Edgeworth	1

Illawarra

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 18

Cringila Lions	39
Port Kembla	35
White Eagles	33
Wollongong Olympic	28
Bulli	28
Northern United	24
Lysaghts	23
Kemblawarra	20
Fernhill	19
Coniston Lions	16
Dapto	12
Helensburgh	10

ROUND 18
POSTPONED GAMES

Lysaghts v Coniston Lions
Northern United v Cringila Lions
Wollongong Olympic v Helensburgh

ROUND 19
SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

Bulli	2	Helensburgh	4
Coniston Lions	4	Kemblawarra	1
Cringila Lions	2	Lysaghts	1
Dapto	2	Northern Utd	1
White Eagles	0	Port Kembla	6
W'gong Olympic	1	Fernhill	0

Queensland

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Brisbane City	24	17	6	1	57	16	57
Taringa Rovers	24	14	5	5	40	21	47
Brisbane Lions	24	14	4	6	44	31	46
Rochedale Rov	24	14	2	8	42	27	44
IPSW Knights	24	14	1	9	38	34	43
Wynnum	24	8	4	12	31	39	28
Mt Gravatt	24	6	7	11	37	42	25
B'berg Waves	24	7	1	16	30	49	22
Gold Coast	24	5	6	13	28	43	21
Beenleigh	24	3	0	21	22	67	9
Olympic Utd	22	6	3	13	31	44	21
Redlands Utd	21	6	3	12	38	62	21
Slacks Creek	22	5	4	13	29	56	19

ROUND 24

Mt Gravatt	0	Rochedale Rov	3
Beenleigh	1	IPSW Knights	3
B'berg Waves	0	Brisbane City	3
Gold Coast	0	Taringa Rovers	5
Brisbane Lions	1	Wynnum	0

ROUND 24

Toowoomba Utd	0	Bye	0
Slacks Creek	2	Acacia Ridge	0
Rocklea UTd	1	Capalaba	0
Redlands Utd	2	Inala City	2
Souths Utd	1	Olympic Utd	0

DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Toowoomba Utd	21	18	1	2	58	16	55
Rocklea Utd	21	13	2	6	52	31	41
Capalaba	21	9	6	6	42	27	33
Inala City	22	9	3	10	43	51	30
Souths Utd	21	7	8	6	32	29	29
Acacia Ridge	21	7	2	12	36	45	23

DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Eastern Subs	22	16	5	1	40	14	53
Albany Creek	21	10	6	5	38	20	36
Uni of Qld	21	10	5	6	33	26	35
Pine Rivers Utd	21	8	8	5	25	19	32
Mitchelton	22	9	5	8	35	35	32
The Gap	21	7	4	10	38	42	25
Newmarket	22	5	6	11	25	43	21
Grange Thistle	21	4	4	13	20	37	16
North Star	21	4	3	14	23	41	15

ROUND 24

Pine Rivers Utd	2	Newmarket	1
Grange Thistle	0	Mitchelton	3
The Gap	2	Uni of Qld	3
Eastern Subs	3	North Star	0
Albany Creek	0	bye	0

West Coast

PREMIER DIVISION

Kingsway Olympic	0	Inglewood Falcons	1
Perth	4	Floreat Athena	1
Fremantle City	2	Stirling Macedonia	0
Cockburn City	1	Bayswater Panthers	0
Dianella White Eagles	0	Western Knights	4

DIVISION ONE

Wanneroo City	1	Queens Park	1
Bancatta	5	Armadale	2
Southside Utd	2	Swan IC	5
Rockingham City	2	Bassendean Caledonians	0
Perth City	1	Stirling Suns	1
Ashfield-Bunbury	8	North Lake Espanol	0

Victorian Churches Association

FIRST DIVISION
DIVISION 1
ROUND 15

Berwick	2	Box Hill	2
Morrison	1	Lilydale	0
North Blackburn (1)	2	Eastern Utd (1)	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eastern United (1)	15	13	1	1	50	10	40
Lilydale (1)	15	7	3	5	43	26	24
Morrison	15	7	3	5	30	28	24
North Blackburn (1)	15	6	3	6	30	30	21
Box Hill	15	3	2	10	16	35	11
Berwick	15	2	2	11	20	60	8

South Australia

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Torrens Birkalla	18	13	2	3	43	25	41
Campbelltown City	18	11	3	4	37	18	36
Croydon	18	9	4	5	34	27	31
Adelaide Blue Eagles	18	7	3	8	23	28	24
White Eagle Warriors	18	6	5	7	25	23	23
Port Adelaide Lion	18	6	4	8	24	26	22
Cumberland United	18	6	4	8	22	32	22
Elizabeth City	18	5	5	8	29	33	20
Olympians	18	6	2	10	17	34	20
Raiders	18	4	2	12	23	31	14
Campbelltown	20	11	3	6	39	18	36
West Torrens Birkalla	20	9	6	5	38	25	33
Port Adelaide Lion	20	9	5	6	27	23	32
Olympians	20	7	4	9	26	34	25
Cumberland United	20	5	6	9	22	28	21
Adelaide Blue Eagles	20	6	2	12	24	33	20
White City Warriors	20	5	5	10	17	35	20
Elizabeth City	20	4	6	10	22	48	18
Raiders	20	4	4	12	16	40	16

ROUND 18

Campbelltown City	4	Olympians	0
Port Adelaide Lion	3	Cumberland Utd	0
Raiders1	1	Croydon	2
W Torrens Birkalla	6	Elizabeth City	1
WC Warriors	3	Adelaide Blue E	1

ROUND 22

Port Adelaide Lion	0	Olympians	0
Raiders	0	Elizabeth City	0
White City Warriors	0	Campbelltown City	0
W Torrens Birkalla	0	Cumberland United	0

PREMIER U/23

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SA Sport Institute	20	14	1	5	56	22	43
Croydon	20	13	4	3	37	18	43

Bill Turner Cup

Round 4: James Sheehan 2 Lithgow 1, St Francis Xavier 2 Marist Pearce 0, Daramalan 2 Caroline Chisholm 1, Yeppoon 3 Holy Spirit Mackay 2, Brisbane Grammar 5 St Pats Shorncliffe 0.

Round 5: Daramalan 1-6 St Francis Xavier 1-5, Notre Dame Shepparton 5 Griffith 2, St Augustines Cairns 7 Yeppoon 1, Brisbane Grammar 3 Pine Rivers 1, Stanthorpe 1 St Marys Dalby 0, Palm Beach-Currumbin 2 Windaroo Valley 1, Cavendish Road 6 Marsden 2.

Round 6: Chris Bros Lewisham 3 Pennant Hills 2, Endeavour 2 Pat Bros Blacktown 1, ASC Maitland 1-4 Farrar 1–2.

Australian Features

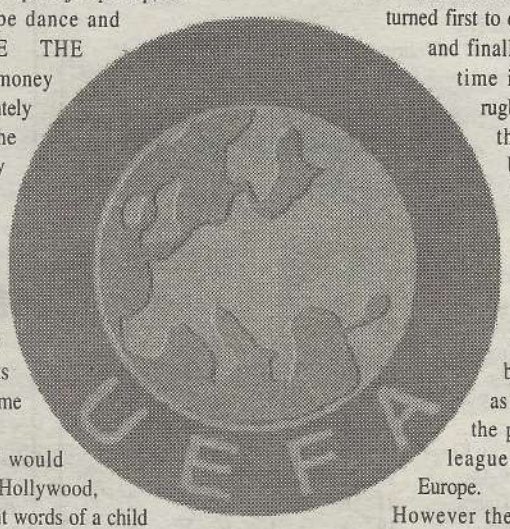
IF I WAS A RICH MAN

CASH IS A FOUR LETTER WORD

By A.D. Akratos, as part of the continuing series of 'Tales from the Couch'

A couple of weeks ago I was over a friend's place when I was the witness to something extraordinary. His wife was trying to get their six-year-old to clean his room and he was adamant in his refusal.

She trying cajoling, sweet-talking, begging and even threats but the child remained. But when she offered him $10 to do it, his eyes lit up, he jumped up, did an NFL touch down type dance and yelled "SHOW ME THE MONEY!!!". When the money was produced, he immediately set to work and within the hour the room was not only spick but also span.



I was dazzled by the child's original stance and the power of $$$ in the home environment but it wasn't till I saw "Jerry Maguire" a couple of nights later that the truth came home to me.

To say I was shocked would saying too little. Shame, Hollywood, shame. To take the innocent words of a child and build a movie around it, is just despicable. Although considering the child had only spoken the words only a matter a few days ago, for the Hollywood types to make the movie, package it and get it on the video shelf in time for me to rent it is a testament to the efficiency of the movie business in the good ol' US of A. Go Hollywood.

Anyway, the movie set me thinking and I just couldn't believe that money in sport is so important. I mean, the players play soccer (or whatever) for the love of the game, right? Sure they might get a few bucks from the sale of tickets to the game on the day but I just couldn't see where any real money could come from. Just enough to cover the bus ride to the ground and maybe buy a hamburger and chips for a post-match feed. That's it, a couple of bucks.

These and other such profound thoughts filled my mind as I lay back on my bed. It was late and with nothing on the boob tube, I needed something to do. Looking around the room I suddenly noticed a huge pile of newspapers in the corner that I hadn't been aware of previously. Sure, the pile was about three metres high but who really notices these things? Since I wasn't really doing anything besides think thoughts profound, I decided to explore the pil. To my amazement the pile turned out to a collection of newspapers dating back close to a decade. How 'bout that, huh?

Over the next several hours my excitement turned first to curiosity then to confusion and finally to shock. For the first time in my life I read about rugby league v. super league, the reformatting of the UEFA Champions league, the last three World Cups, and who the hell is Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls?

But at least the news was mostly good for my beloved Manchester United as they kicked butt all over the place in the new premier league, and not so much in Europe.

However the word money appeared frequently and over the last ten years wages changed from $60,000 to $600,000 in league, Jordan was worth $40 million a year and transfers in soccer spiraled from a couple of million to more than 20 million (right on Ronaldo!)

And words such as merchandising, television rights and endorsements started to fill the sports pages more than the results, game analyses and pre-game previews did. Truly, show me the money was not a concept dreamed in the mind of a six-year-old like I had thought but in the evil minds of mad-scientist type marketing executives gone mad with the lure of money and more money. Mad, I tell you, MAD!!! Hahahahahahhahahaha!!!

The hijacking of the UEFA Champions' League seems to be merely a formality by Europe's biggest clubs. With sums of $100 million per annum being thrown about like pocket change it makes one wonder how much is too much?

Ticket prices are starting to become ridiculously expensive, teams such as Brazil are "owned" almost outright by their sponsors Nike (see what Edmundo is saying on page 24) and media magnates are starting to dream of running the whole show according to their own personal agenda.

I once heard that no one person is bigger than the game but we must now ask ourselves, is there any one person who can afford to buy the game outright? And in a manner similar to "it's my bat, it's my ball and it's my game," are we seeing the beginning of "elite sports" where only a few privileged clubs are invited to play and the rest are condemned to playing in the nether regions of the world stage?

Don't get me wrong, I love seeing the Uniteds play the Juventuses of the world. But I love the game more than I love my team. I love the romance of Scunthorpe beating Liverpool in the FA Cup, Real Madrid losing out to Ferencvaros and Norway beating Brazil. I love the goals, the magic moments of unbridled skill that light up a drab 0-0 draw and the blood and guts of a sliding tackle when a goal is about to be scored. But already passion is being lost on a daily basis. How can you expect players on a $2 million a year contracts to care about anything when their wages are guaranteed win, lose or draw?

Bonuses are now the pocket change given to a girlfriend to buy the latest Italian fashions, not the difference between a family struggling to make ends meet and making sure the mortgage is paid.

Admiteddly supermodels, ferraris and recreational drugs are expensive but where will it all stop?

But then there is the bright side. With all the cash been thrown about the need for extravagant entertainment (ie: value for money and the need to attract spectators/subscribers) will also increase and here will be a pre-game entertainment segment, a half time performance and an end of game wrap up party with mucho music and bright lights and celebrity appearances and we'll put it under a big tent (ala Circus of the Superstars) and there'll be tigers and elephants and tanks ... yes, big, tanks with MONSTER wheels and cars beeing smashed up in high speed car chases and the players will have stunt doubles for the really hard tackles and ... get the drift?

More money doesn't mean better, it just means more ridiculous.

And getting a tad sleepy, I quickly finish the article on Eric Cantona's reasons for retirement, hurridly glance at the antics of the de Boer brothers and closing the page on the NRL, I switch off the light and run pell mell to the land of dreams where words like "cash", "contracts" and "television rights" are strictly forbidden.

And the beautiful game is still the beautiful game...

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NSW STATE LEAGUE

SUPER LEAGUE ROUND 21

Eastern Suburbs vs Central Coast2-2

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Blacktown City	22	13	5	4	46	25	21	44
Bonnyrigg WE	21	15	4	5	47	23	24	43
Canterbury Berries	22	12	5	6	36	30	6	40
Macarthur Rams	21	12	3	6	36	29	7	39
Eastern Suburbs	22	11	4	7	50	33	17	37
Parramatta Eagles	21	11	4	6	47	30	17	37
Bankstown City	21	8	6	7	36	31	5	30
Leichhardt Tigers	21	8	6	7	32	32	0	30
Sutherland Shire	21	4	6	11	17	37	-20	18
Central Coast	22	5	5	14	26	45	-19	16
Ryde City Gunners	21	3	6	12	21	40	-19	15
St George Sains	21	1	4	16	17	56	-39	7

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Bonnyrigg WE	21	16	2	3	72	22	50	50
Parramatta Eagles	21	16	2	3	51	22	29	50
Blacktown City	22	14	5	5	54	31	23	46
Macarthur Rams	21	13	2	6	52	24	28	41
Eastern Suburbs	21	11	4	6	45	29	16	37
St George Saints	21	9	2	10	34	43	-9	29
Canterbury Berries	22	8	2	12	35	41	-6	26
Leichhardt Tigers	21	7	4	10	37	41	-4	25
Bankstown City	21	6	3	12	31	43	-12	21
Ryde City Gunners	21	4	3	15	25	55	-30	15
Sutherland Shire	21	4	2	15	24	60	-36	14
Central Coast	21	2	4	15	24	73	-49	10

UNDER 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Parramatta Eagles	21	16	4	1	53	10	43	52
Bankstown City	21	13	5	3	47	18	29	44
Blacktown City	22	13	4	5	47	20	27	43
Macarthur Rams	21	11	5	5	35	22	13	38
Ryde City Gunners	21	10	5	6	32	26	6	35
Leichhardt Tigers	21	8	6	7	36	34	2	30
Bonnyrigg WE	21	9	3	9	41	40	1	30
Eastern Suburbs	21	7	7	7	35	38	-38	28
St George Saints	21	6	4	10	38	36	2	23
Central Coast	21	3	4	14	25	40	-15	13
Canterbury Berries	22	2	5	16	15	57	-42	10
Sutherland Shire	21	1	4	16	15	78	-63	7

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Fairfield Bulls	25	19	3	3	53	22	31	60
Hurstville City	25	18	2	5	54	27	27	56
Stanmore Hawks	26	16	2	7	54	30	24	53
Manly Warringah	26	12	7	7	48	31	17	43
Auburn United	26	11	6	9	44	40	4	39
Penrith Panthers	25	10	5	10	34	30	4	35
Rockdale City Suns	25	10	3	12	49	46	3	33
Moorebank Sports	26	9	6	11	33	39	-6	33
Illawarra Lions	25	8	8	9	31	30	1	32
Bathurst '75	25	8	7	10	26	34	-8	31
AC United	26	6	8	10	42	48	-6	30
Hills United	26	5	5	16	29	59	-30	20
Mt Pritchard	25	4	5	16	33	57	-24	17
Belmore Hercules	25	3	6	16	24	61	-37	15

*University of NSW deducted 3 points
**Alexander Warriors deducted 3 points

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Hills United	26	16	6	4	56	21	35	54
Manly Warringah	25	15	5	5	53	26	27	50
Fairfield Bulls	25	14	7	4	76	30	46	49
Moorebank Sports	26	12	10	4	52	34	18	46
AC United	25	12	8	5	44	29	15	44
Rockdale City Suns	25	12	5	8	60	48	22	41
Penrith Panthers	25	11	7	7	43	32	11	40
Mt Pritchard	25	10	3	12	57	52	5	33
Bathurst '75	25	9	6	10	40	37	3	33
Stanmore Hawks	26	10	3	13	41	41	-1	33
Auburn United	26	9	3	14	58	76	-18	30
Hurstville City	25	9	2	14	43	65	-22	29
Belmore Hercules	25	4	3	18	27	68	-41	15
Illawarra Lions	25	0	0	25	19	119	-100	0

UNDER 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Bathurst '75	25	16	6	3	53	25	28	54
Manly Warringah	25	16	4	5	60	22	38	52
Illawarra Lions	25	16	3	6	78	39	39	51
Stanmore Hawks	26	16	3	7	52	30	2	51
AC United	25	14	3	8	62	35	27	45
Moorebank Sports	26	14	3	9	52	33	19	45
Hills United	26	12	8	6	52	35	17	44
Fairfield Bulls	25	13	3	9	40	37	3	42
Mt Pritchard	25	12	3	10	43	30	13	39
Penrith Panthers	25	11	3	11	39	42	-3	36
Rockdale City Suns	25	5	5	15	46	51	-15	20
Belmore Hercules	25	4	1	20	31	80	-49	13
Hurstville City	25	1	5	19	23	84	-61	8
Auburn United	26	0	4	22	20	98	-78	4

DIVISION TWO TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Hajduk Wanderers	21	16	5	0	60	12	48	53
Dulwich Hill	21	16	5	0	58	16	42	53
Hurstvifle ZSC	21	13	5	3	50	27	28	44
Arncliffe Scots	21	10	2	9	46	39	5	32
Sydney District	21	10	1	10	28	38	-9	51
Greystanes	22	9	3	10	43	40	5	50
Alexander Warriors	20	3	3	10	40	51	-1	25
Mt Druitt Town	21	5	6	10	33	51	-8	21
Gladesville United	21	4	5	12	51	54	-23	17
Liverpool City	22	5	5	14	25	48	-25	16
Uni of NSW	20	6	1	13	20	49	-29	16
Parramatta City	21	5	3	14	26	54	-28	15

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Hajduk Wanderers	21	18	0	3	104	16	88	54
Greystanes	21	16	1	5	40	21	19	52
Dulwich Hill	21	12	4	5	36	25	31	40
Mt Druitt Town	21	12	4	5	55	30	25	40
Uni of NSW	20	10	8	7	32	25	7	33
Hurstville ZSC	21	8	1	12	39	50	-11	25
Liverpool City	21	6	6	9	48	49	-1	24
Gladesville United	21	5	5	11	32	50	-18	20
Sydney District	21	5	4	12	20	62	-48	19
Parramatta City	21	5	5	13	29	54	-25	18
Alexander Warriors	20	5	2	13	26	59	-32	17
Arncliffe Scots	21	4	5	14	20	61	-41	15

UNDER 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Mt Druitt Town	21	19	1	1	60	8	62	58
Hajduk Wanderers	21	16	3	2	105	15	90	51
Sydney District	21	16	1	4	57	25	32	48
Liverpool City	21	15	2	4	47	15	33	47
Gladesville United	21	12	2	7	51	22	39	38
Greystanes	21	11	1	9	54	24	30	34
Parramatta City	21	9	1	11	44	40	-5	28
Dulwich Hill	21	7	2	18	39	51	8	23
Hurstville ZSC	21	5	2	14	23	53	-20	17
Arncliffe Scots	21	5	0	16	23	106	-85	15
Uni of NSW	21	3	1	16	22	56	-34	10
Alexander Warriors	21	0	0	21	4	156	-152	0

DIVISION THREE ROUND 22

	1ST	2ND
Sydney Uni v White City	1-1	4-1
Maroubra Utd vs Granvifle Greenisland	3-1	3-0
Colo Colo vs Trasandinos	0-1	1-2
*Camden Tigers vs Hakoah	2-2	2-2

*Rescheduled game from Round 18

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Sydney University	20	13	3	4	60	29	31	42
Maroubra United	21	12	2	7	61	42	19	38
Colo Colo	21	12	1	8	40	34	6	37
Camden Tigers	19	10	4	5	47	39	8	34
Glebe Wanderers	20	10	4	6	37	34	3	34
Trasandinos	20	8	6	6	33	34	-1	30
White City	20	6	6	8	32	51	-19	24
Flamencos	20	7	2	11	39	52	-3	23
Hakoah	20	7	2	11	35	53	-8	23
Prospect United	20	6	3	11	34	41	-7	21
Granville Greenisland	20	5	5	10	38	50	-12	20
Hawkesbury City	19	5	0	14	27	44	-17	15

SECOND GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Flamencos	20	14	2	4	48	25	23	44
Glebe Wanderers	20	13	4	3	39	16	23	43
Prospect United	20	11	4	5	36	19	17	37
White City	20	10	2	8	49	40	9	32
Trasandinos	20	9	4	7	34	34	0	31
Sydney University	20	8	6	6	39	28	11	30
Colo Colo	21	8	3	10	34	43	-9	27
Camden Tigers	19	6	5	8	31	34	-3	23
Marboura United	21	6	3	12	31	48	-17	21
Hakoah	20	5	4	11	30	46	-16	19
Granville Greenisland	20	5	4	11	22	38	-16	19
Hawkesbury City	19	3	3	13	16	38	-22	12

DIVISION FOUR ROUND 23

	1ST	2ND
Nepean Districts vs St Josephs	2-0	2-2
Sydney Cres Star vs United Eagles (Win by forfeit)	1-1	3
Lithgow Workmen vs Balmain Tigers	1-3	1-1
Springwood vs Earlwood Hermes (Win by forfeit)	w/o	3
CSI Schofield vs Fraser Park (Win by forfeit)	w/o	0
*CSI Schofield vs Prairiewood Utd	0-1	

*Rescheduled game from Round 11

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Fraser Park	20	16	3	1	63	17	46	51
Prairiewood Utd	21	12	8	1	54	25	29	44
Nepean District	21	11	3	7	33	21	12	36
Sydney Crescent Star	21	11	3	7	41	40	1	36
Marrickville	20	9	6	5	41	40	1	33
Holy Cross Ryde	19	9	5	5	39	24	15	32
St Josephs	21	8	6	7	33	37	-4	30
Fairfield City Kings	19	9	5	5	37	20	16	29
CSI Schofields	20	8	2	10	35	36	-1	26
Balmain Tigers	21	6	4	11	38	51	-3	22
Springwood	19	6	3	10	36	52	-5	21
United Eagles	20	4	8	8	28	44	-5	20
Lithgow Workmen's	21	2	1	18	21	74	-53	7
Earlwood Hermes	19	1	1	17	14	79	-65	4

Fairfield City Kings deducted 3 points

SECOND GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Nepean District	22	15	3	4	64	17	47	48
Fraser Park	21	14	6	1	52	21	31	48
Balmain Tigers	21	11	6	4	50	19	31	39
Holy Cross Ryde	19	10	5	4	40	22	18	35
Springwood	20	10	4	6	55	29	26	34
Prairiewood Utd	21	10	4	7	55	37	18	34
Marrickville	20	10	2	8	43	37	6	32
CSI Schofields	20	7	4	9	38	40	-2	25
St Josephs	20	7	4	9	48	51	-3	25
Lithgow Workmen's	22	7	3	12	40	61	-21	24
Fairfield City Kings	19	6	4	9	33	45	-12	22
United Eagles	20	5	3	12	38	75	-37	18
Sydney Crescent Star	22	5	0	17	39	97	-58	15
Earlwood Hermes	21	3	0	18	19	63	-44	9

DIVISION FIVE ROUND 21

	1ST	2ND
*Sporting SCC vs Liverpool Olympic	4-1	1-2

*Rescheduled game from Round 20

FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Eastern Crk Pioneer	15	10	4	1	35	18	17	34
Auburn Star	16	9	5	2	32	15	17	32
White Valley	16	7	5	4	22	17	5	26
Sporting SCC	17	6	5	6	31	32	-1	23
AVA United	16	6	4	6	36	29	7	22
Bossy	17	5	6	6	28	32	-4	21
Racing	15	4	8	3	26	20	6	20
Kosciusko	16	8	2	6	39	36	3	19
Homenetmen	15	4	4	7	29	39	-10	16
Liverpool Olympic	16	2	6	8	26	31	-5	13
Liverpool Warriors	16	1	2	13	16	51	-35	5

*Kosciuszko deducted 7 points

See pages 19-30 for the Global Game. ABSW's World News with reports and analysis from Africa Asia Latin America Greece Uk Italy USA & Europe

NSW STATE LEAGUE

SECOND GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
AVA United	16	11	1	4	40	18	22	34
Liverpool Olympic	17	10	3	4	49	23	26	33
Auburn Star	16	10	2	4	49	28	21	32
White Valley	16	9	3	4	40	26	14	30
Eastern Crk Pioneer	15	9	2	4	37	25	13	29
Sporting SCC	16	9	2	5	40	32	8	29
Racing	15	6	1	8	40	32	8	19
Kosciusko	16	4	5	7	34	46	-12	17
Homenetmen	15	4	2	9	27	38	-11	14
Liverpool Warriors	16	2	2	12	11	50	-39	8
Bossy	16	1	1	14	11	61	-50	4

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1 — ROUND 18

	1ST	2ND
*Marconi vs NNSW ITC		0-2
**Eastern Suburbs vs Gladesville Ravens	0-3	
(win by forfeit)	0-4	
***NSW INST/Academy vs Sydney Utd	6-0	1-4
****NSW INST/Academy vs NSW ITC /Academy	3-0	1-3

* Rescheduled game from Round 15
**Rescheduled game from Round 16
***Rescheduled game from Round 14
****Rescheduled game from Round 17

FIRST GRADE

NSW INST/Academy	17	15	2	0	84	7	78	47
NNSW ITC/Academy	18	14	3	1	63	11	52	45
Sutherland Sharks	16	10	3	3	44	15	29	33
Marconi Fairfield	16	9	4	3	60	16	54	31
Sydney United	16	10	1	5	64	24	41	31
Gladesville Ravens	16	6	1	9	26	53	-27	19
UWS Macarthur	17	6	1	10	38	66	-28	19
Moorebank Sports	16	2	0	14	11	66	-55	6
Nepean Panthers	15	1	2	12	16	80	-64	5
Eastern Suburbs	17	0	1	16	7	87	-30	1

SECOND GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
NNSW ITC/Academy	18	14	2	2	64	15	49	44
Sutherland Sharks	17	12	1	4	73	16	57	37
Sydney United	17	11	2	4	56	16	40	35
Marconi Fairfield	16	11	2	3	39	11	28	35
Gladesville Ravens	16	10	3	3	44	17	27	33
NSW INST/Academy	17	7	0	10	43	34	9	21
Eastern Suburbs	17	6	3	8	22	22	0	21
Moorebank Sports	16	2	0	14	7	59	-52	6
Nepean Panthers	15	2	0	13	10	83	-73	6
UWS Macarthur	17	1	1	15	6	91	-85	4

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2 — ROUND 18

	1ST
Shoalhaven Assoc vs Bankstown City	3-0
Bankstown City vs Sutherland Shire	1-8
*Roselands vs Gladesville Ravens (Win by forfeit)	3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Central Coast WSA	17	16	1	0	83	13	70	49
Shoalhaven Assoc	17	11	4	2	50	14	36	37
Manly Warringah	17	11	3	3	46	24	22	36
St George Assoc	17	10	3	4	40	18	22	33
Roselands	16	6	4	6	39	35	4	22
Bathurst City	17	6	3	8	40	44	-4	21
Wollongong City	16	4	4	926	32	-6	16	
Sutherland Shire	17	4	1	12	34	54	-20	13
Gladesville Ravens	16	3	2	11	13	37	-24	11
Bankstown City	17	0	1	16	12	112	-100	1

Northern NSW Suffers Its First Loss

By Mark Stavroulakis

Lady luck did not shine on the girls from Northern NSW as they suffered their first defeat of the season. The girls were clearly outplayed and outclassed by a arch-rivals NSW Institute 3-0 at Valentine Park, Parklea.

This victory gave the Institute the minor premiership and are now favourites to take out the Grand Final. NSW had lead 2-0 at the half break so it was pretty much catch up soccer for Northern NSW, who battled until the very last minute but the greasy pitch did not help and were unable to capitalise on their opportunities.

Northern NSW will play NSW next Sunday, again at Valentine Park in the major semi-final, with the win taking them straight to the Grand Final. A loss however will see them back up mid-week in the final (something teams dread.)

The reserve grade team made up of mainly Hunter Academy squad members, with an average age of just over 14 years, knocked over the more fancied NSW Academy 3-1, to secure the championship.

The scoring started as early as the 13th minute thanks to a great goal by Katie Gill. It was in the 44th minute however, that settled this match as Tara McMinn ensured Northern NSW the three points and took Northern to a 2-1 lead at the break. The show was all over for the Academy as Amy Neilson scored a third in the 56th minute to wrap up the game 3-1.

Northern NSW Women's Coach Mark Jones was very pleased with the efforts of both teams and stated: "To finish second (in first grade) and win the reserve grade highlights the Northern NSW development program and arguers well for the coming post season finals as well as the National League. While it would have been good to win both minor premierships to win the reserve grade is gratifying and shows the faith of the Federation in youth development. Our program is working, we had a good result in the 16s at the Gold Coast (in July) and to win the minor premiership with a squad that averages only 14 years is very pleasing."

The reserve grade squad will have to wait on the weekend results to see who they play next week in the major semi-final.

Easts Finals Hope Sinking

By ABSW

Eastern Suburbs' semi finals hopes had that sinking feeling at Wentworth Park on Sunday, after Central Coast were able to snatch a draw. While Easts have moved into fifth place with the point from the game, they now need Bonnyrigg White Eagles to beat Parramatta, for them to grab the last finals place.

It was a gamble by Easts coach Joe Watson to play the game. "Sure I wanted the game played because I thought if we won then we would put the pressure back on Parramatta."

The gamble failed when in the dying minutes, Easts defenders left Peter Preston totally unmarked and he latched onto a pass from Coasties captain Paul Roberts to slam his shot past Les Bihari.

Throughout the game, it had become farcical as both sets of players were slipping and sliding all over the place and several certain goals being prevented by the water in the goalmouths.

Easts striker Scott Mutton had two golden chances in the first five minutes but was denied by great saves from veteran Coasties keeper Gary Meier.

The Coasties then shocked Easts in the 16th minute, Derek Caisley beating two before slipping his pass to Glen Sprod who finished clinically.

But Easts never gave up and hit back early in the second half with two quick goals both from substitutes.

The first came via Mick Daniels in the 56m, his shot deflecting off Marcus Steele and giving Meier no chance and, eight minutes later, Peter Pullicino scored with a delightful shot hit with the outside of his foot.

Daniels should have buried the game shortly afterwards, beating Meier to a contest and with the goal at his mercy shot and watched the ball stop dead in the water.

Easts also had two chances to take the lead back late in the game, Jason Bennett and Steve Hickman both seeing there shots stop close to the goal as they looked like going in.

Easts: Bihari, Dihm, Mikoutski, Hickman, Sharpley (Jerkovic), Mutton (Daniels), McCombe (Pullicino), Segreto, Ekinci, Sermanni, Bennett.

Coasties: Meier, Bourke, Margin (R Beveridge), Steele, Preston, Roberts, Caisley (B Beveridge), Sprod, Sontag, Demery (Binskin), McGuire.

Parramatta needs a point to overtake Easts, while Bonnyrigg only needs a point to finish at minor premiers ahead of Blacktown.

QLD EXTRA: CITY PREMIERS

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane City wrapped up the XXXX league premiership and a Queensland Cup quarter final berth with a comprehensive 3-nil win victory over Bundaberg Waves in Bundaberg on Saturday night.

A double by the league's leading goal scorer Chris Slater, and another from experienced former national league striker Danny Wright, gave the visitors a deserved win after the homeside trailed 1-nil at halftime.

Slater's double took his season's tally to 22 goals, double his nearest rival Clayton Koch,who also scored in Rochedale's 3-nil win against Mt Gravatt.

Brisbane City have an unassailable lead in the premiership moving to 57 points, ten points clear of nearest rivals Taringa Rovers with three matches remaining in the season.

The Brisbane City-Bundaberg fixture also served as a fourth round Queensland Cup fixture.

For City is was just another day at the office as they methodically took Bundaberg apart.

Coach Bobby Hamilton once again proved he was undoubtedly one of the league's best coaches, with City losing only one game this season when they lost in round eight to Brisbane Lions 2-1.

Taringa also got amongst the goals thrashing Gold Coast 5-nil after Martin Matula gave the visitors a 1-nil lead at half time.

Taringa, who now hold a slender one point lead over third place Brisbane Lions, tore the home side apart in the second half piling on four goals, including a hattrick from youngster Daryl Hathway.

Hathway only made his XXXX league debut the previous week against Bundaberg.

Fifth placed Ipswich Knights served notice they were still chasing a semi-final position keeping up the pressure on the top four sides, downing wooden spooners Beenleigh 3-1 at Beenleigh.

Ipswich striker Kevin Meacock, who has had a lean goal scoring season by his standards, landed an overdue double with former State striker Peter Vogler adding his name to the score sheet.

At Richlands Stadium, Brisbane Lions had to struggle hard before gaining maximum points against Wynnum.

The Wolves have been a bogey side for many of the league's top teams this season and inflicted a 2-nil win over Brisbane Lions in their previous encounter.

For Lions it was a must win game as they arguably have one of the toughest run in to the semi finals against Taringa, Brisbane City and Ipswich.

To their credit Wynnum held Lions scoreless at halftime with Ben Wood going closest with an overhead kick which hit the crossbar midway through the half.

In an interesting second half tussle, Lions broke the deadlock 17 minutes after the resumption when man-of the-match Darren Hillier latched onto a cross from striker Greg Di Losa blasting a left foot shot into the net.

In Queensland Cup fixtures played midweek Ipswich downed semi-pro club Albany Creek 2-1, Taringa had a 1-nil win over Rochedale while Lions, had to wait until the last minute before downing Mt Gravatt 2-1.

Defender Paul Worrell was the hero for Lions grabbing only his third goal of the season in a goal mouth scramble.

Brisbane City, Taringa, Lions and Ipswich will now play country division winners to decide the Queensland Cup semi-finalists.

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SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MAR

EXPERIENCED SQUAD NAMED FOR NORTH KOREA TOUR

This Sunday, the Australian team sets off for its first ever meeting with North Korea, touring to capital Pyongyang to contest a three-test series against one of the first teams to qualify for next year's World Cup.

National Coach Greg Brown announced the 20-member team yesterday (Monday) for what is Australia's first international competition for the year, and overall, has gone for experience with his selections.

The test series provides the vital match preparation for the major assignment for the year, that of Australia's qualification in October for the 1999 World Cup.

With the National Squad centralised in Canberra since the July commencement of the AIS women's soccer program, this first team selection has taken on added significance. The twenty full-time scholarship athletes were just recently joined by the remaining OAP Squad members, including the three overseas-based players, staking their claim for selection.

Joanne Peters

Despite a few injury worries, Brown is happy with the way the squad has settled into Canberra and the progress of the program. "This has been the most difficult decision I've had to make," said Brown of the selection process.

"On previous tours, players have been unavailable or injured, so I've just selected the best available team, which has often given us not a lot of scope. This time, I've given it a lot of thought, and looked more down the track."

"I've made sure we've got cover in each position, all round the park. I would have liked to have taken more, but that would be too much of a luxury. We've got a very strong team, fairly experienced. Those left out are all very good players, but it's not their time this tour. Also, going to a place we've never been before, we need all the experience we can draw upon. It's probably not the place to take newer players."

The one exception to that thought is the somewhat unexpected selection of 19-year-old goalkeeper Joanne Butland, ahead of the experienced Tracey Wheeler. The young Queenslander toured the US last year whilst Wheeler was injured, but is yet to make her full international debut.

"Joanne's been working very hard with Paul Jones (goalkeeper coach), and we've all been very pleased with her progress. Tracey has a lot of experience, but Joanne will benefit more from this tour. Over the last twelve months, Jo's made gradual progress, but here she's gaining more and more confidence and proficiency - now she needs a bit of exposure."

Wheeler, not one of the twenty scholarship athletes, has seen little international action for the past two years, suffering knee problems, and arrived in Canberra a fortnight ago carrying a bit of an injury. "Solid training over the next few weeks will be of more benefit to her than the tour."

The one other surprise omission is that of Lisa Casagrande, Brown revealing only that she too would be better off working at home.

Katrina Boyd, and the trio who jetted in from overseas barely a week ago have done enough to gain selection, despite the little time they have spent in Canberra under the scrutiny of Brown and Assistant Chris Tanzey.

"They've come in at a time when the rest have played a fair number of games," stated Brown. "They're looking quite good - it will just be a matter of time and they'll gel in with the rest of the team."

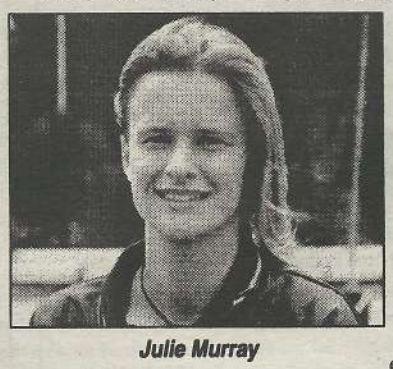
NSW's talented midfielder Joanne Peters makes a return to the green and gold, missing for most of 1997 after a knee reconstruction. "Joey's had a long road back, but she's been working hard and looking good.

She probably needs a few more games for her to be happy with herself, and that's what this tour's about." South Australian Sharon Black was subjected to a late fitness test on a nagging groin injury before a decision was made on her fate.

The Australians know little of their opponent, Brown admitting the only available information is a few reports from the Asian Championship on the internet - no video footage or first hand knowledge. Nevertheless, the Matildas will enter the challenge confident of a good showing.

"By all accounts they are very tough physically, well disciplined, fit and strong," he said. "I'm expecting it to be a tough challenge, which is exactly what we need this far out from the Qualifiers. Once we get there and find out what they're like, we'll know whether we need to play our best, or play around with things a bit. Depending on their formation, we might try a few things, but we're pretty settled in our style at the moment, so it probably won't be too much different."

"I'd like to come away winning all the games, continuing how we left off last year (when Australia defeated Olympic silver medallists China). If we want to be successful, and move up the rankings, we've got to be beating the best sides." At the same time, Brown says he'd like to give everyone a game.



Julie Murray

The Aussies will enter Pyongyang during a wet summer period, with temperatures in the mid to high twenties, a far cry from the Canberra winter. "The conditions will probably take their toll on our players - everything will be very demanding."

As for coping with travelling to a country with such extreme living conditions and culture, Brown says he is not overly concerned with such matters. "I'm pretty confident we'll have all we need, and we've done a fair bit of homework on the place. It will be a good test for us all, but to be honest, I've not given it a lot of thought. Things will always crop up, but in the end, we're there to play games."

Brown concluded by emphasising the major purpose of the tour, saying "I think it will be a time for us to refocus on what we're here for. We've been in a while (at the AIS), and getting back into international competition will give us a wake-up call that the Qualifiers are just around the corner."

The Australian team departs from Canberra this Sunday, travelling up to Sydney by road before boarding their international flight. With heavy limitations on flight connections to such a place, the team will spend a full 24 hours in Beijing (China) en-route to Pyongyang, eventually arriving at their destination on Tuesday afternoon. The delegation arrives back in Canberra on Sunday 6 September.

The three matches will all be played in Pyongyang, kicking off on Saturday 29 August, followed by Tuesday 1 September, and Friday 4 September.

AUSTRALIAN TEAM - NORTH KOREA TOUR

	State	Hometown	DOB	Position	Caps
Traci BARTLETT	ACT	Sydney	17/05/72	Defender	22
Sharon BLACK	SA	Adelaide	04/04/71	Midfielder	23
Katrina BOYD	NSW	Sydney	12/12/71	Forward	15
Joanne BUTLAND	QLD	Cairns	24/11/78	Goalkeeper	0
Sarah COOPER	ACT	Darwin	08/10/69	Midfielder	37
Alicia FERGUSON	QLD	Brisbane	31/10/81	Forward	6
Alison FORMAN	(Denmark)	Newcastle	17/03/69	Midfielder	34
Sonia GEGENHUBER	QLD	Adelaide/Bris	28/09/70	Defender	49
Sunni HUGHES	(Japan)	Newcastle	09/06/68	Forward	43
Angela IANNOTTA	(Italy)	Albury	22/03/71	Forward	15
Belinda KITCHING	QLD	Ipswich	15/07/77	Goalkeeper	17
Julie MURRAY	NSW	Canberra/Syd	28/04/70	Forward	45
Joanne PETERS	NSW	Leeton/Sydney	11/03/79	Midfielder	11
Kim REVELL	QLD	Brisbane	16/03/75	Midfielder	23
Cheryl SALISBURY	NNSW	Newcastle	08/03/74	Midfielder	31
Bridgette STARR	NNSW	Newcastle	10/12/75	Defender	23
Kristyn SWAFFER	SA	Adelaide	13/12/75	Defender	19
Anissa TANN-DARBY	NSW	Sydney	10/10/67	Defender	54
Amy TAYLOR	ACT	Canberra	11/06/79	Defender	9
Shelley YOUMAN	NNSW	Newcastle	22/07/67	Midfielder	11

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION

National Coach:	Greg BROWN
Asst National Coach:	Chris TANZEY
Manager:	Lesley MANN
Physiotherapist:	Julian RUSSELL-JONES
Doctor:	Dr Graeme BISHOP
Tour Leader:	Maria BERRY

WORLD NEWS

The U.S. women's national team will headline the field for the 1998 U.S. Women's Cup. The four-team tournament will feature two squads already qualified for the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup and two more that may also be playing for the title during the summer of 1999.

The fifth U.S. Women's Cup will feature the host United States, Brazil, Russia and Mexico. The tournament begins on Sept. 12 at Foxboro Stadium in Boston where the U.S. will take on Mexico in a match that precedes the Major League Soccer game between the New England Revolution and the Columbus Crew.

Brazil will face Russia on Sept. 15 in Oneonta, N.Y. The match replaces the U.S. vs. New Zealand contest that was abandoned due to lightning strikes and tornado warnings on June 2, 1998 in the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame Induction Game. The Brazil-Russia match marks the first time a U.S. Women's Cup game not featuring the U.S. will be broadcast.

The next four matches of the tournament will be played in two doubleheaders. On Sept. 18, Frontier Field in Rochester, N.Y., will host Mexico vs. Brazil at 5:30 p.m. followed by USA vs. Russia at 8 p.m.

U.S. Women's Cup '98 will finish at the University of Richmond Stadium on Sept. 20 as Mexico faces Russia at 12:30 p.m. and the U.S. takes on Brazil at 3 p.m.

The U.S. has won the previous four U.S. Women's Cups, compiling a 12-0-0 record against eight different nations. Brazil comes into U.S. Women's Cup '98 as the South American champions, overwhelming the competition during the Women's World Cup qualifying tournament last March. The U.S. has a 5-1-1 record lifetime against Brazil, but lost the last meeting, 1-0, in Sao Paulo in Dec. of 1997.

Russia is on the verge of qualifying for the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup and by the kickoff of the NIKE U.S. Women's Cup '98, will know its fate. Currently tied atop European Qualifying Group 4 with Denmark, Russia faces the Danes on Aug. 22 in a crucial match. The group winner earns a trip to the finals in '99 while the second-place finisher must playoff against Finland for a spot in the Women's World Cup.

An emerging women's soccer nation, Mexico attempted to qualify for both the 1991 and 1995 FIFA Women's World Cups, but had poor showings while losing 12-0 and 9-0 to the USA in the CONCACAF qualifying tournaments. This time around, Mexico will be bolstered by up to half a dozen Mexican-American players who have strengthened the side and made them a strong favorite to at least finish second in the 1998 CONCACAF Qualifying Tournament to be held Sept. 28- Oct. 6 in Toronto.

Canada is the favorite to win the CONCACAF tournament and earn a berth to the 1999 Women's World Cup. However, a second-place finish for Mexico would earn them a chance to play South American runner-up Argentina in a two-game home-and-home series to determine the Western Hemisphere's last spot for USA '99.

Jane Tornqvist notched a goal in the fifth minute to help Sweden to a a 5-0 victory over Ukraine in Kiev on Saturday. Sweden clinched first place in European Qualifying Group 1 with the win and a berth to the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Sweden got its second goal in the 33rd minute from 19-year-old Hanna Ljungberg, then added second half scores from Christine Lilja, Kristin Bengtsson and Camilla Ackerfors.

Sweden joins Italy, winner of European Group 2, South American champion Brazil, Asian qualifiers China, Japan and North Korea, and the host USA in the 16-team field.

Four more European teams will be determined by the end of October with Africa, CONCACAF and Oceania representatives determined in the Fall.

Sweden still has one match left against Iceland on August 26, but no one can catch the hosts of the 1995 FIFA Women's World Cup, who have compiled the maximum 15 points so far with a 5-0-0 record in group play. Sweden has had a history of success at Women's World Cups, finishing 4th at the 1991 event inChina and 5th at the 1995 tournament.

Ukraine (6 points from five matches) and Iceland (5 points from four matches) are in a battle for second place in Group 1 and a berth in the playoff round.

Winners of the four European groups earn automatic berths to the 1999 Women's World Cup while the second-place finishers must playoff in two-match series with the winner determined on aggregate. Ukraine and Iceland meet on Aug. 30 to decide the group runner-up, the reward being a tough playoff against Germany, likely runners-up in Group 4.

Teams that fail to qualify for the Women's World Cup are also excluded from the 2000 Olympics, as the top seven finishers at the 1999 Women's World Cup will join host Australia in the eight-team women's soccer competition in Sydney.

Sweden's qualification leaves nine of the 16 berths still open. Four more spots will go to Europe, two to Africa, one to Oceania, one to CONCACAF, and one to the winner of the two-game playoff series between the CONCACAF runner-up and Argentina, the second-place finishers in the South American qualifying tournament.

Defending Women's World Cup champion Norway will win Group 3 with a victory over England on Aug. 15. A tie or loss would give the group title to Germany and send Norway to a playoff.

In Group 4, Russia and Denmark are currently tied at 12 points a piece and meet on Aug. 22 in a crucial match.

Over 130,000 tickets have been sold for the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup, with the tournament a little less than a year away.

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By Graham Cooke

CREEK SIGNS UP WITH ROYALS

Weston Creek formalised its link with the Canberra Royals licensed club in a short ceremony at the club last week. Secretary Doug Jarvis said the name change — adding 'Royals' to the Premier League outfit's title — was now official, and a new certificate of incorporation had been issued.

The Royals Club has been a supporter of rugby union for many years, as well as backing many community causes in the Weston Creek area. "We hope this will add a new dimension to the activities," Jarvis said.

"We have seen so-called rival codes working together in other states, and I don't see why it shouldn't happen here."

Creek seniors president Warren Barsley said the soccer club is now looking for "an additional complementary sponsor in 1999.

"We are the only Premier League first division club in Canberra south of Deakin, including Weston Creek itself and the Tuggeranong Valley, so I feel that places a responsibility on us to take a professional attitude and serve that community as best we can," he said.

Codes United: From the left: Royals Rugby Club Development Director Bruce Townsend, Royals Senior Duty Manager Nicky Parker, Weston Creek Secretary Doug Jarvis, Senior Committee Member Leo Geremia, Senior Chairman Warren Barsley.

ROCKETS GROUNDED BY MARCONI

After looking as if they might be on the wrong end of a double-figure thrashing, the Canberra Rockets salvaged some pride to hold visiting Ericsson Cup club Marconi to 4-0 at the Bruce Athletics Field on Sunday night.

It had looked all too easy for the Stallions as they moved to a 3-0 lead in 16 minutes. A fifth minute corner from Mauro Van Cuylenberg was headed on by Francis Awaritefe to Dominic Longo whose finish had both power and accurancy.

The alarm bells should have been ringing in the Rockets camp 10 minutes later when Van Cuylenberg was up for another corner. Instead it was virtually a repeat performance, although this time Awaritefe played no positive part, missing an attempted shot and instead allowing the ball to go on to Longo for another power strike past goalkeeper Pedro Pavez.

And a minute later the busy Brad Maloney found the back of the net in what now seemed an inevitable rout.

Instead the Rockets got their heads down and stemmed the flow. Joe Gagetti was in the general's role at the back, and with Alex Tsiokos and Steve Vanzetti played an important part in blunting the raids of Awaritefe and Kris Trajanovski. Nor was it non-stop defending: Steve Lazzari forced a fine save from Ante Covic as well as hitting the post; Covic was glad to push a Scott Conlon shot out for a corner and in the last seconds Philippe Mballa, seeking to gain a place in the Canberra Cosmos line-up, shot powerfully over the bar.

But Marconi has a seemingly inexhaustable supply of young talent, and one of them, Luke Tomich, entering the game in the second half, supplied the fourth goal off a cross from Brendan Renaud.

In the youth game between the two, the Young Rockets showed the potential that exists in the local area by beating Marconi 3-1, writes Nick Guoth.

Marconi looked set when it led 1-0, Joe Bruni put Mark Hagger away on goal and his shot gave Angelo Konstantinou no chance.

The second half was all Rockets. A 25-metre shot from Matt Valeri produced the equaliser, then Matt Whyte was brought down in the penalty area and Oscar Zamora scored from the spot.

A few minutes from the end a Whyte free kick bounced down off the crossbar and Scott Manson headed in.

Rockets coach Ian Shaw said his team deserved its win. "We mastered the surface better and had a majority of the ball," he said.

'MINI-PITCH' ENRAGES HEYWOOD

Monaro coach Ian Heywood lashed out at the quality of the pitch after his table-topping team had been held to a 2-2 draw by bottom club University of Canberra on Sunday.

"The question has to be asked why a Premier League game had to go ahead on what is essentially an under-sized, unenclosed ground," he said.

"I was under the impression the rules clearly state matches at this level should be played on quality, enclosed pitches. Today we were playing on a postage stamp, where the goalkeepers could kick the ball from one end to another."

In fact that was exactly how Monaro opened the scoring in this game, which had been transferred from the University's normal oval after midweek rain. With 24 minutes gone 'keeper Tony Guarino kicked deep into the opposition half. Heath Gillett collected the ball first bounce on the edge of the penalty area and headed it on for Daniel Macor to score.

Six minutes later the University was level, Simon Foxhill eluding Darryl North to cross for Dominic Bartone to score from close range.

Then it was Macor again, this time a solo effort to slip the ball past the advancing Troy Boots for his second.

The size of the pitch was a factor in the University's 57th minute equaliser. Long throw specialist Damon Toivonen, who could easily hurl the ball deep into the penalty area, this time aimed his effort straight for the back of the net.

Guarino should have left the ball and collected a goal-kick; instead he attempted to save it, touched it on the way in and legalised the goal.

For the remainder of the match Monaro pressed for the winner, but some gritty defending in which Silvio Mileli was an inspiration, kept the league leader at bay.

Monaro must now sweat it out until Wednesday, when Belconnen United take on Capital City Suns, to see if it has lost first spot. Increasingly, the minor premiership looks like going down to the last round of the season, when Monaro and United meet in what many tip as a grand final preview.

Gungahlin Juventus kept its faint chance of a top-four place alive when it beat Canberra Deakin 4-2. It must now hope that neither the Suns nor Canberra Olympic pick up points in their Wednesday games.

George Cattanach (2), Matt Valeri and Paul Gagetti scored for Juventus in what Deakin coach Marko Vrkic lamented as one of the most lifeless games played between the two traditional rivals.

The one positive point for Deakin is the performance of junior product Peter McArthur who scored on his Premier League debut. Anton Merdzan was the club's other marksman.

Canberra City followed up last week's win with another strong performance in a 4-4 draw with Weston Creek Royals, writes Nick Guoth.

Only a goal seconds from the final whistle allowed Royals to take a share of the points.

Royals opened the scoring against the run of play when a stray defensive pass was picked up by Matt Julienne, who set up Steve Lazzari to score.

Brad Craven made it 2-0 when he chipped the goalkeeper after being put clear by Shane Colemen, but City got one back when Simon Agnello converted a Michael Lemezina cross.

Paul Panebianco was left free in the penalty area to grab the equaliser, but just before half time Royals regained the lead when a Craven cross found Lazzari well positioned at the far post.

City stepped up the pace in the second half, but lack of accuracy cost it dear until the 68th minute when Lemezina took on most of the defence and won to make it 3-3.

Ten minutes later it had the lead when a corner kick was pushed by the goalkeeper on to the head of Danny Bennett. Four minutes into stoppage time Lazzari completed his hat-trick.

City coach Steve Bryant said he was happy with his team's performance. "We competed well for the ball and controlled the game," he said.

For Royals, Jimmy Bland felt his team lacked incentive. "Some of them are just waiting for the end of the season," he said.

Belconnen United won its twice-postponed Round 13 game with Queanbeyan City 4-1 on Thursday night, maintaining the pressure on Monaro.

For United the goals were shared around — Geoff Howarth, Scott Manson, Matt Whyte and Neil Stoddart all finding the net. Zmelko Trajinoski scored from a free kick for City.

NOVELL ACT P/L

Division One
Round 17 Sunday, August 23

Belconnen United	v	Uni of Canberra	Hawker Oval
Canberra City	v	Capital City Suns	Majura Oval
Canberra Deakin	v	Weston Creek Royals	Deakin Oval
Canberra Olympic	v	Gungahlin Juventus	O'Connor Oval
Queanbeyan City	v	Monaro	High Street*

*Venue subject to change
Firsts 2pm. Under 23 noon

Division Two
Round 20 Saturday, August 22

White Eagles	v	Defence Academy	Hughes Oval No 1 (1)
Tuggeranong United	v	ANU	Kambah Oval No 2 (1)
Cooma	v	Burns Club	Nijong Oval
Canberra Defence	v	O'Connor Knights	RMC Oval

Firsts 3pm. Under 23 1pm

Division 1

Capital City Suns	*	Belconnen United	*
Weston Creek Royals	4	Canberra City	4
Gungahlin Juventus	4	Canberra Deakin	2
Queanbeyan City	*	Canberra Olympic	*
University of Canberra	2	Monaro	2

** Playing tomorrow*

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaro	16	9	7	0	0	37	15	41
Belconnen United	15	10	4	0	1	40	16	38
Capital City Suns	15	8	3	1	3	36	22	31
Canberra Olympic	15	9	2	0	4	35	22	31
Gungahlin Juventus	16	6	3	2	5	34	24	26
Weston Creek Royals	16	6	3	0	7	29	36	24
Canberra Deakin	16	4	4	1	7	20	25	21
Queanbeyan City	15	4	2	0	9	33	47	16
Canberra City	16	3	2	0	11	27	41	13
Uni of Canberra	16	0	4	0	12	14	57	8

Golden Boot (after Round 15)

Marko Perinovic	Belconnen United	12
Scott Manson	Belconnen United	10
Peter Buljan	Capital City Suns	9
Matt Valeri	Gungahlin Juventus	9
Steve Lazzari	Weston Creek Royals	9
Matthew Whyte	Belconnen United	8

Under 23: Capital City Suns 2 Belconnen United 6, Weston Creek Royals 1 Canberra City 0, Gungahlin Juventus 4 Canberra Deakin 1, Queanbeyan City 0 Canberra Olympic 7, University of Canberra 2 Monaro 1.

Points: Gungahlin Juventus 42, Belconnen United 31, University of Canberra 30, Canberra Deakin 28, Capital City Suns 28, Weston Creek Royals 26, Canberra City 22, Queanbeyan City 11, Monaro 9, Canberra Olympic 9.

Youth: Capital City Suns 1 St Edmunds 2, Belconnen Strikers 2 Canberra Olympic 1, Queanbeyan City 6 Radford College 2, Gungahlin Juventus 0 University of Canberra 1.

Points: Belconnen United 41, University of Canberra 35, Canberra Deakin 31, Tuggeranong United 31, Weston Creek Royals 29, St Edmunds 26, Gungahlin Juventus 25, Goulburn City 23, Belconnen Strikers 21, Capital City Suns 17, Radford 17, Canberra City 16, Canberra Olympic 8, Queanbeyan City 8.

Division 2

Defence Academy	5	Tuggeranong United	1
ANU	0	Cooma	1
Burns Club	7	Canberra Defence	1

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
ANU	19	14	2	0	3	59	22	46
Burns Club	19	14	1	0	4	64	27	44
White Eagles	18	11	2	0	5	45	22	37
Cooma	17	7	4	0	6	37	23	29
Tuggeranong United	19	6	2	0	11	32	51	22
O'Connor Knights	15	7	0	0	8	20	30	21
Defence Academy	17	5	0	0	12	27	44	15
Canberra Defence	18	1	1	0	16	16	81	5

Under 23: Defence Academy 2 Tuggeranong United 5, ANU 13 Cooma 0, Burns Club 4 Canberra Defence 0.

Points: ANU 55, White Eagles 35, Burns Club 31, Defence Academy 26, Canberra Knights 25, Tuggeranong United 23, Canberra Defence 19, Cooma 8.

Victorian Soccer

KINGS FOR A DAY ... BUT ONLY JUST

ALTONA 1
BULLEEN 1

(Bulleen won 4-2 on penalties after extra time)

By Dwyght Tuffnell

In controverisal circumstances Bulleen Inter Kings overcame their finals bogey-side Altona Magic to make it through to their second consecutive Grand Final. The Kings were given what looked to be a soft penalty and Altona had a goal disallowed for offside in extra time.

The two sides needed penalties to separate them again. This time though, the Kings prevailed.

Two of the Magic's most experienced players, skipper Tom Markovski and Sava Rusmir, were the unfortunate victims of the dreaded shoot-out.

Markovski had his shot saved by Kings 'keeper Sean Keogh whilst Rusmir slammed his effort against the post.

"Altona played very well today and we fought hard, they stopped us playing for most of the game" said Bulleen coach Gary Cole after the game.

Magic coach Ian Dobson thought his side were the better team on the day.

"We defended extremely well. They never really looked like scoring," said Dobson.

"Tactically, we stopped them from playing."

Altona brought in Nick Georgopoulos and John Sapazovski for the suspended Robert Runje and ace striker Sash Becvinovski (trialling in Belgium).

Neither were missed greatly by the Magic who, for long periods of the game, were the better side in a tight, at times, dreary encounter.

Sapazovski, in particular, did a terrific job in deputising for Becvinovski, linking up well with Zoran Petrevski and scoring Altona's goal shortly after half time.

Neither side extended itself in the first half, the only highlight being an amazing solo run by Bulleen's veteran sweeper John Waddell who played a through ball for Danny Gnjidic but Altona 'keeper Darren McGrath collected the ball quickly.

Two minutes into the second period Altona broke the deadlock.

Rusmir wrongfooted the Bulleen defence with a pass that ran into the path of Sapazovski who calmly slotted the ball past Keogh.

Altona then sustained some Bulleen pressure and looked even more dangerous than the Kings as a swift counter-attack always looked on the cards.

Keogh saved brilliantly from the head of Petrevski in the 74th minute, a vital moment as five minutes later, the Kings would be on level terms.

Zdravko Atanasovski, playing against the side he's won the last three championships with, won the Kings a very contentious spot kick.

Jinking his way around the Altona defence, Atanasovski seemed to be impeded by Rusmir, but didn't fall until a couple of seconds after the contact, minimal that it was, was made.

"He tripped him, so it was a penalty," Bulleen's Cole, said adamantly.

Dobson could not agree.

"I thought it was a very soft penalty. The ball went away from him (Atanasovski) and the referee was very late in making the decision."

Gnjidic breathed new life into a game that was slipping out of the Kings reach, coolly dispatching the penalty.

Four minutes of stoppage time was played by referee Jeremy Blaney and in those four minutes, both sides had a chance to win it.

Fak bounced a header from Sapazovski's free kick onto the crossbar and Bulleen captain Eric Hollingsworth missed a chance after a superb Kings move.

It was Hollingsworth who started it, but the hard work was done by Gnjidic who beat Fak to the ball, then delivered a perfect cross onto the head of Hollingsworth who steered it agonisingly wide.

More chances were created as both sides tired in extra time and in the 103rd minute, referee Blaney found himself the centre of attention again with another dubious decision.

Markovski drove forward and his shot was deflected off Paul Della Rocca into the path of Rusmir who duly scored only to be greeted with the assistant referee's flag and Blaney's whistle.

Dobson was again critical of the referee.

"The offisde was a worse decision than the penalty award. When Tom Markovski shot, there was no way Sava Rusmir was offside."

Gnjidic, Anthony Grbac, Waddell and Atanasovski all scored their penalties for Bulleen.

Altona were missing three players who took penalties in the Qualifying Final shoot-out two weeks earlier. They had to find replacements for Becvinovski, Nick Georgopoulos and Henry Velkovski.

Sapazovski had his shot saved but was allowed to re-take it because Keogh had moved off his line.

16 year old sensation Daniel Vasilevski easily scored but Markovski and Rusmir were denied by Keogh and the woodwork respectively.

Cole rates St Albans very highly, but believes that the Kings have the ability to beat them.

"We beat St Albans 3-1 the last time we played them, we believe we can beat them again.

"They're a good side with fairly awesome strike power and they're very quick, it'll be an open game and, yes, I think we cane win," Cole concluded.

Magic: McGrath, Vasilevski, Tasevski, Micevski, Markovski, Rusmir, Georgopoulos (Cvetanovski 97), Sapazovski, Velkovski (Bogdanovski 120), Petrevski, Fak.
Kings: Keogh, Valentic (Tartaglia 63), Stojcevski, Della Rocca, Mazzini, Atanasovski, Waddell, Gnjidic, Sherifovski (Collina 63), Grbac, Hollingsworth.
Scorers: **Magic** - Sapazovski (47)
Kings - Gnjidic (pen. 79)
Referee: Jeremy Blaney
Crowd: 1,500

PLAYER RATINGS

By John Rigas

ALTONA MAGIC

Darren McGrath: Made some very good saves to deny Bulleen. McGrath was beaten by all Bulleen's spotkicks in the shootout (7).
Daniel Vasilevski: Only 16 - years old, Vasilevski showed true character in such an important fixture. (8).
Marijan Tasevski: Tussled for most of the day with former teamate Zdravko Atanasovski. Struggled to keep up with Atanasovski's pace (6).
Simon Micevski: Strudy defender, kept cool under pressure, did his job to the fullest. (7)
Tom Markovski: Had a splendid game, right up untill the penalty shootout. Markovski had his spotkick saved by Keogh. (7)
Sava Rusmir: Was a great ball winner and distributor. Rusmir tested the Bulleen defence with his blistering pace. Like Markovski he missed his spotkick. (7).
Henry Velkovski: Performed well in midfield until he got injured. Velkovski was Altona's best player and was missed in the penalty shootout. (8).
Nick Georgopoulos: Was hardly sighted received a yellow card. Could have contributed alot more. (6)
Dean Fak: Was a threat when he came forward for the set pieces. His defensive qualities kept Bulleen's attack quiet. (7).
John Sapazovski: Altona's goalscorer, his pace and sharpness worried the Bulleen outfit. (7).
Zoran Petrevski: Combined well with Sapazovski. Came close on several occasions, but was denied by Sean Keogh in the Bulleen goal. (7).
John Cvetanovski: Replaced Georgopoulos. Did not have enough time to contribute. (no rating).
Zoran Bogdanovski: Came on for the injured Velkovski in the 120th minute. (no rating).

BULLEEN INTER KINGS

Sean Keogh: Denied Altona time and time again. Kept his team in the game. Keogh made an important save in the shootout. (8).
Frank Valentic: Was replaced by Dean Tartaglia midway through the second half. Was hardly sighted could have contributed more. (6).
Robert Stojcevski: Stojcevski's defensive qualities played a major part in Bulleen's result, his clean tackles was a feature. (7).
Paul Della Rocca: Rock solid in defence cleared everything that came his way, great reader of the game. (7).
Michael Mazzini: The quiet achievier in the Bulleen defence. Showed a touch of nerves early on, went on to be a worthwhile contributor. (7).
John Waddell: Best player on the park, showed his qualities in defence was also a threat when he came forward. (9).
Anthony Grbac: Hard working midfielder did his job without any problems, converted his spotkick to ensure the victory. (8)
Zdravko Atanasovski: Was bundled over nearly every time he touched the ball. Atanasovski's pace put pressure on the Magic (8).
Danny Gnjidic: Scored Bulleen's goal midway through the second - half. Was marked tightly by Micevski and Fak. (7).
Eric Hollingsworth: Was hardly sighted throughout the afternoon. His contribution could have been better. (6)
Agim Sherifovski: Damon Collina replaced Sherifovski late in the game, the left sided player was not his usual self.
Dean Tartaglia: Recevied a yellow card, Tartaglia did not have enough time on the park too show his class. (3)
Damon Collina: Collina was thrown into a defensive role which he was not accustomed too. (3).

CRAZY JOHN'S MOBILEWORLD COMMUNICATIONS

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE DIV 1 ROUND 22 RESULTS

North Geelong Warriors	1	Westvale	5
Lalor United	0	Westgate	2
Altona East	1	Werribee City	0
Doncaster Rovers	1	Kingston City	1
Richmond	7	Melton Reds	0
Western Suburbs	4	Ringwood City	1
Northcote City	1	Springvale City	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Westvale	22	20	1	1	82	14	61
Altona East	22	16	3	3	63	23	51
Western Suburbs	22	16	1	5	68	25	49
Kingston City	22	13	3	6	45	19	39
Werribee City	22	10	4	8	43	32	34
Richmond	22	9	4	9	41	35	31
North Geelong Warriors	22	8	6	8	41	38	30
Springvale City	22	8	5	9	42	44	29
Northcote City	22	8	4	10	41	58	28
Doncaster Rovers	22	8	3	11	40	43	27
Westgate	21	5	7	9	38	40	22
Lalor United	22	3	5	14	32	56	14
Ringwood City	21	4	2	15	26	56	14
Melton Reds	22	0	2	20	14	133	-1

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED THIS WEEKEND NEXT ROUND ON AUGUST 30

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 ROUND 22 RESULTS

Altona City	1	Cranbourne	2
Broadmeadows City	0	East Richmond	3
Regent Bulla	1	Maroondah Arrows	2
Old Scotch Waverley	2	Oakleigh	2
Essendon Bruns. Royals	2	Yarraville/Glen Eira	1
Knox City	2	Frankston Strikers	1
Mooroolbark	2	Melbourne City	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oakleigh	22	17	3	2	71	20	54
Melbourne City	22	13	5	4	43	22	44
Yarraville/Glen Eira	22	12	3	7	37	26	39
Cranbourne	22	11	2	9	39	39	35
East Richmond	22	9	7	6	22	21	34
Old Scotch Waverley	22	10	3	9	41	34	33
Frankston Strikers	22	10	2	10	47	34	32
Essendon Bruns. Royals	22	10	2	10	30	38	32
Knox City	22	8	5	9	37	30	29
Altona City	22	7	7	8	34	38	28
Maroondah Arrows	22	7	5	10	26	31	26
Regent Bulla	22	7	2	13	29	53	23
Broadmeadows City	22	3	5	14	25	54	14
Mooroolbark	22	3	3	16	18	59	12

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED THIS WEEKEND NEXT ROUND ON AUGUST 29

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CRAZY JOHN'S
MOBILEWORLD COMMUNICATIONS

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 ROUND 22 RESULTS

Fitzroy City	1	South Springvale	2
Keilor Park	2	Diamond Valley United	3
North Coburg United	4	Bell Park	2
Keysborough	3	Chelsea	4
Banyule City	5	Pascoe Vale	2
Stonnington City	1	Frankston Pines	3
Geelong	6	South Werribee	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Geelong	22	18	3	1	71	20	57
Diamond Valley United	22	15	5	2	55	23	50
Stonnington City	22	15	3	4	46	27	48
Frankston Pines	22	13	4	5	62	30	43
South Springvale	23	10	5	7	34	27	35
Keilor Park	22	9	3	10	37	35	30
North Coburg United	22	7	6	9	30	32	27
Banyule City	21	7	4	10	37	36	25
Pascoe Vale	22	7	2	13	34	50	23
Chelsea	22	7	1	14	33	61	22
Bell Park	22	7	3	12	32	46	21
South Werribee	22	6	2	14	32	74	17
Fitzroy City	21	4	4	13	24	41	16
Keysborough	22	4	3	15	30	55	15

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED THIS WEEKEND NEXT ROUND ON AUGUST 29

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE DIV 4 ROUND 22 RESULTS

Seaford United	2	Sandringham City	2
Langwarrin	0	South Wantirn	2
Melton	2	Geelong Rangers	0
Nunawading City	0	Williamstown	4
Western Eagles	2	Sunbury United	3
Moreland City	9	South Caulfield	0
Corio	5	Clifton Hill United	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moreland City	22	18	2	2	75	26	56
South Wantirna	22	15	4	3	55	18	49
Seaford United	22	12	7	3	51	29	43
Williamstown	22	13	3	6	40	23	42
Langwarrin	22	12	4	6	51	34	40
Sandringham City	22	10	6	6	57	41	36
Corio	22	9	6	7	43	33	33
Sunbury United	22	9	5	8	38	32	32
Geelong Rangers	21	9	1	11	30	37	28
Western Eagles	22	6	7	9	34	40	25
Melton	22	6	2	14	41	55	20
Clifton Hill United	21	5	1	15	25	68	16
Nunawading City	22	4	1	17	25	67	13
South Caulfield	22	0	1	21	15	77	1

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 1 ROUND 22 RESULTS

Glenroy	1	Lyndale United	5
Endeavour United	3	Brandon Park	3
Riversdale	0	Monbulk	2
Templestowe Eagles	1	North Sunshine Eagles	1
Springvale Condors	2	Croxton Park	2
Mitcham United		bye	
Lalor		bye	

TABLE - Lyndale United 40, Croxton Park 37, Lalor 30, Endeavour United 29, Templestowe Eagles 26, Monbulk 26, North Sunshine Eagles 25, Riversdale 24, Springvale Condors 24, Mitcham United 20, Glenroy 13, Brandon Park 6.

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED THIS WEEKEND NEXT ROUND ON AUGUST 29

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 2 STH/EAST ROUND 18 RESULTS

Newborough/Yallourn	2	Old Camberwell Gram.	1
Noble Park	0	Doveton	2
Waverley Wanderers	2	Monash University	0
Ashburto	1	Dandenong	3
Braeside United	3	Dingley City	1
Berwick City	3	Morwell Pegasus	2

TABLE - Morwell Pegasus 41, Dandenong 40, Waverley Wanderers 37, Doveton 36, Newborough/Yallourn 32, Noble Park 23, Dingley City 22, Monash University 20, Braeside United 17, Ashburton 12, Berwick City 8, Old Camberwell Gram. 4.

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED THIS WEEKEND - NEXT ROUND ON AUGUST 29

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 2 NTH/WEST/CENTRAL ROUND 18 RESULTS

South Yarra	1	Sydenham Park	4
Brunswick City	6	Hoppers Crossing	1
La Trobe University	2	Broadmeadows United	3
Ballarat	0	Meadow Park	2
Elwood City	2	Melbourne University	0
Uni. of Melbourne	1	Keon Park	2

TABLE - Brunswick City 41, Sydenham Park 40, Broadmeadows United 30, Keon Park 27, Elwood City 25, South Yarra 23, Uni. of Melbourne 22, Hoppers Crossing 22, Ballarat 21, Meadow Park 14, La Trobe University 11.

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED THIS WEEKEND NEXT ROUND ON AUGUST 29

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 3 STH/EAST/CENTRAL ROUND 18 RESULTS

Dandenong Inter	3	Endeavour Hills	1
Caulfield United	4	Parkmore	0
Collingwood City	4	Heatherton United	2
North Caulfield	2	Clayton	3
Noble Park United	1	Flemington Falcons	1
Thornbury United	0	Ivanhoe United	1

TABLE - Dandenong Inter 44, Clayton 40, Heatherton United 37, Noble Park United 33, Caulfield United 32, Ivanhoe United 24, Collingwood City 21, Endeavour Hills 20, Flemington Falcons 19, North Caulfield 19, Thornbury United 10 Parkmore 3.

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED THIS WEEKEND NEXT ROUND ON AUGUST 30

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 3 NTH/WEST ROUND 18 RESULTS

Watsonia Heights	0	North Glenroy	1
Darebin United	1	North Reservoir	1
(abandoned in 35th minute)			
Mill Park	0	Somerton City	1
Whittlesea United	3	Brimbank	2
Keilor United	5	West Preston	0
Northern United		bye	

TABLE - Mill Park 35, Somerton City 35, North Glenroy 26, Darebin United 26, Keilor United 23, North Reservoir 20, Brimbank 19, Northern United 19, West Preston 16, Whittlesea United 14, Watsonia Heights 11.

Ian Dobson ... "The offside was a worse decision than the penalty award."

GRAND FINAL
DETAILS BELOW

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PREMIER LEAGUE FINALS

WEEK THREE RESULTS

Preliminary Final

Altona Magic 1 (Sapazovski 47) – **Bulleen Inter Kings 1** (Gnjidic pen. 79) (Bulleen win 4-2 on pens aet.)

WEEK FOUR FIXTURE

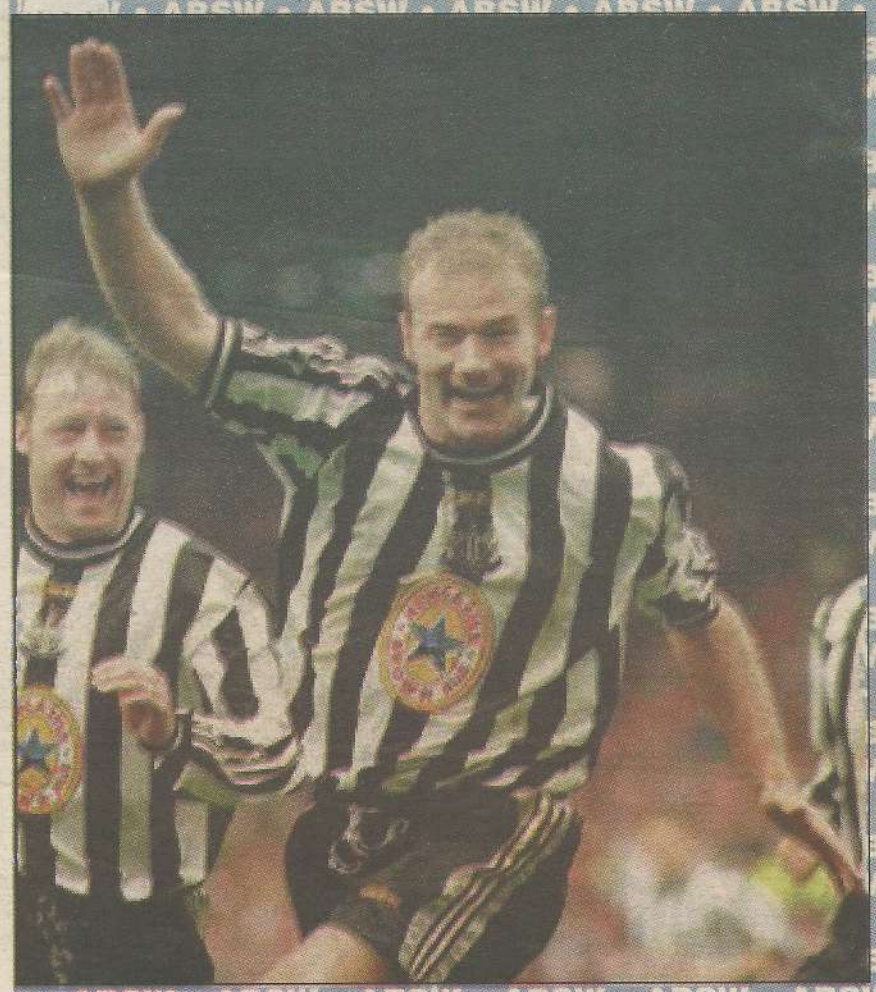
Ken Slack Memorial Trophy

Under 14 Metropolitan XI v **Under 14 Country XI** – Lakeside Stadium – kick off 12.30pm

GRAND FINAL

St Albans Saints v **Bulleen Inter Kings** – Lakeside Stadium – kick off 3.00pm

SOC



THE BEAUT

CER

IFUL GAME

Have Your Say ...

NEW ERA FOR NSL?

With the Seven Network taking over TV rights for the local game, there has been plenty of talk from some diehard soccer followers that this is bad for the game. These people argue that SBS are the soccer station, and will always support the game. However, I beg to differ on their commitment to local soccer.

There is not a shadow of a doubt that SBS is the champion of world soccer coverage. During the season, they have one hour of World Soccer, one hour of Champions League highlights, Italian soccer, they've recently acquired the Premier League, and of course, their World Cup coverage was second to none.

One would need to look far and wide to find a television station which covered the World Cup so thoroughly. What more would a follower of the world game need?

Despite this excellence, the local coverage has left a lot to be desired. 'On the Ball' was axed, there were no games shown live, even delayed, and there was only one hour of highlights, which I think was a fairly dour summary of the weekend's games.

Other sports have far bigger coverage, including hours of AFL and cricket, and even basketball has one live game per week on the ABC. Drugby league receives decent coverage in Victoria, although this is hardly a drugby stronghold.

People can whinge all they like about local soccer being taken away from SBS, but for some people, including myself, they deserve to lose rights considering their indifference towards the local game in recent times.

If they are the altruistic saviours of the local game, then they would have committed far more time for the Ericsson Cup. I often get the impression they think the Ericsson Cup is second rate.

Even if Channel 7 only show one hour at 1.00 in the morning, they will still receive far better ratings than SBS at prime time. I think the local game needs a change for the better, and compete in the wider market place. SBS will still have world soccer, and I'm glad, because they do an excellent job of this, and obviously show far more interest in this marquee stuff.

My only query over Channel 7 is that they are the AFL channel, and Wayne Jackson, the AFL supremo, has identified soccer as the AFL's only threat on multiple occasions.

However, it is doubtful they would purchase the rights for $25 million merely to keep the sport down! Hopefully SA can utilise this money wisely and create a professional league before the next World Cup.

G. Owen
Geelong, Vic.

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BRAVO LUNA!

I've watched most of the World Cup and supported Mexico. I was wondering if you have any information on No. 19, Braulio Luna.

How old is he, which team does he play for (in Mexico, if he does or other country) and is there an address where I could write to him? Also congratulations on such a great soccer magazine.

E. Emorfopoulos
Fairfield, NSW.

TAB moves into Soccer

Sports TAB, a newly created arm of the recently privatised NSW TAB, has already commenced operations, specialising in providing the service of framing a fixed price betting market to no less than 19 sports, including Soccer.

Sports betting has now been made possible through TAB's 1,548 agencies spread across the state of NSW.

The creation of SportsTAB gives TAB access to the $200 million national sports wagering market previously dominated by the Northern Territory's 'Centerbet'.

And high on the list of Sports TAB is the code of Soccer.

Newly appointed Manager of SportsTab, Wayne Cross, stated to ABSW: "Right now we have already framed up a market to cater for Soccer involving England's Premier League title, plus selected weekly 90 minutes match results."

Cross, highly respected for his wealth of experience, is regarded as a 'gun-numbers' man, having originally set up the large operations at 'Centrebet' years ago and based in Alice Springs.

"Soon we will also shift our focus across to include Italian Soccer in the Serie A.

"In the future we will be also looking at framing a market to cater for the German and Spanish domestic Leagues.

"Later this year we will be looking as well to cater for all the Euro Cups being played as well of course as the Champions' League.

"I already have an affinity with European Soccer," emphasised Mr Cross.

Fixed price odds lends itself well to Soccer.

It's the first venture ever taken by the NSW TAB into the 'risk' industry since the TAB was formed back in 1964.

Right now the average Australian Soccer fan can already place a bet with Sports TAB on any English club to win the current League Championship.

Understandably, high on Sports TAB's list are current League Champions Arsenal, plus Manchester United, Chelsea and Liverpool.

The minimum bet that may be placed on any sport, Soccer included, is $5:00, which then may be raised by increments of $1.

All Sports TAB wagering tickets are in yellow to instantly differentiate them from the normal racing tickets at all TAB outlets.

Cross went on to comment: "We will be giving the Soccer punter a very good product to play with.

"Let's face it, Soccer's Euro Champions' League and the World Cup are the biggest and greatest sports competitions in the World by far.

"With time, Sports TAB will expand various other markets relating to Soccer.

"I feel this is an exciting, creative and innovative service for Soccer fans and will be most appealing to the people that haven't previously been involved with anything like it," ended Mr Cross.

Recent markets for the English Premier League Championship set by Sports TAB for every $1:00 invested, are:-Arsenal $2:70c, Man: United $2:80c, Chelsea $5:00, Liverpool $8:00, Blackburn Rovers and Leeds United $15:00, Newcastle $21:00, Aston Villa $41:00, 'Spurs $51:00.

Wayne Cross

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GLOBAL SMASH

I had no idea Spartak Subotica were doing so well, thanks Global Game, thanks ABSW

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Compiled by **AFRICA** ABSW's Daryl Katz

ZAMBIA HELD AT HOME

The COSAFA Castle cup clash between Zambia and Namibia took place in Lusaka last Sunday with Zambia hoping to claim first place on the table from Zimbabwe.

However, a determined Namibia side looking to build confidence ahead of the second leg of their African Nations Cup preliminary qualifying tie with Malawi provided strong resistance.

In a gritty performance, the Namibians severely dented Zambian hopes of retaining the title of southern African regional champions. The 1-1 result means that for Zambia to have a realistic chance of defending the trophy, they must now rely on Angola to defeat Zimbabwe in Harare.

Against the backdrop of massive upheaval within the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ), sports minister William Harrington was give a hostile reception at the stadium. Many fans feel Harrington is responsible for the situation currently impacting negatively on the Zambian game.

Zambia dominated the first half at the Independence stadium, taking the lead in the 23rd minute when midfielder Hilary Masaka sent a speculative long range shot between two defenders and into the net.

Striker Denis Lota had two good opportunities to increase the lead as Namibia miraculously survived an avalanche of attacks. Despite consistent pressure from quick and skilful attackers, Namibia refused to succumb.

Midfielder Gosberth Shikerete, making his debut, and colleagues Lucky Kakuva, Quinton Jacobs and Theodor Tom gradually gained composure.

Young goalkeeper Danzyl Bruwer, seemed to grow in confidence as the match progressed.

When Sylvester Goraseb replaced Jacobs he brought stability and experience to the Namibian midfield, resulting in more controlled football. With the midfield playing as a unit, the forwards began to receive quality ball and the match became more balanced as the Zambians struggled to deal with the change in the Namibian play.

It came as no surprise when Johannes Hindjou blasted the equaliser from close range. Zambian goalkeeper Collins Mbulo failed to deal with a free kick from Bobby Samaria, and Hindjou latched on to a tricky rebound to send the Zambian supporters into depression.

The tough encounter proved a morale booster for the 'Brave Warriors' and was joyfully welcomed by the small Namibian contingent. Goalkeeper Bruwer was named 'Man of the Match'.

The result vindicated the confidence of Namibian coach Seth Boois, who made the seemingly unrealistic pre-match claim that his side would score an away goal and secure at least one point from the encounter.

Fighton Simukonda, the fifth Zambian national coach in two years, said that his team had played good football throughout, lacking only in finishing power.

Zimbabwe now have a one point advantage and a game in hand over their northern neighbours in the overall standings. Namibia, Angola and Mozambique are out of contention. The Zimbabwe — Zambia clash on September 28 could still prove decisive.

SHAIBU NEW SUPER EAGLES COACH

Nigeria at World Cup France 98.

The Nigeria Football Association (NFA) have named Amodu Shaibu as the new coach of the Nigerian national team, the Super Eagles. The post has been vacant since the departure of Bora Milutinovic after Nigeria's exit from the World Cup at the hands of Denmark.

Shaibu begins his second stint as coach of the national team and will work under a foreign technical director. His previous spell in charge was terminated in February 1997 after he had achieved limited success, winning just two of ten matches. He was dismissed for what the NFA at the time termed "insubordination".

A three-man team sent by the NFA to Europe to scout for a foreign coach returned home last week with a shortlist of five Dutch coaches for the position of technical adviser.

The NFA said that the return of Shaibu was part of plans by the Olympic champions to rebuild after their World Cup campaign.

Meanwhile, Russian coach Viktor Bondarenko has been confirmed as the new coach of South African club Orlando Pirates, filling the position from which Amodu resigned two weeks ago to take up the Nigerian post.

Bondarenko will begin a second spell in charge of Pirates with a match against Cape Town Spurs at Soccer City in Johannesburg.

In 1996, he took Pirates to the Bob Save Super Bowl title and amassed a record of just five losses in 35 matches in charge that year.

He was fired in mysterious circumstances after winning the Super Bowl. At the time, Pirates officials said he had been sent back to Mozambique to learn English, but increased salary demands were said to be the real reason for the termination of his contract.

Bondarenko coached in Mozambique for more than 10 years and was twice national team coach. He returned to Costa do Sol in early 1997 and recently helped them to win the mini-league in the country and qualify for the next African Champions League.

SOUTH AFRICAN SEASON TAKES OFF

The South African season is now well underway, with a number of smaller clubs enjoying some time in the limelight. Due to a public holiday last Monday, the long weekend saw two rounds of fixtures.

Saturday's games produced another set of poor results for the pre-season favourites.

Shock of the round was the embarrassing 4-0 thrashing of Mamelodi Sundowns at their new home, Loftus Versveld. The defending champions suffered their heaviest defeat in four years at the hands of city neighbours Supersport United. The result left them with just one point from their two opening matches.

In another unexpected result, Bloemfontein Celtic upset Kaizer Chief 2-1.

The unfashionable club are the surprise early season pacesetters with a full haul of points.

Orlando Pirates produced a convincing performance to down Moroka Swallows 4-1, while Manning Rangers routed Santos of Cape Town 5-0 at Chatsworth Stadium. Player-coach Mark Byrne was the catalyst for Rangers, entering the fray on the hour after his side had squandered numerous scoring opportunities. The Rangers defence looked solid with new signing Moeti Khasu a pillar of strength, and this augurs well for their upcoming Champions League campaign.

In other results, Vaal Professionals downed newly promoted Dynamos 1-0 while Wits University came from behind to force a deserved 2-2 draw with Jomo Cosmos in a lacklustre match at Milpark Stadium. Cape Town Spurs won a thriller away to Bush Bucks, David Kannemeyer scoring his second goal late in the game to give Spurs a 4-3 victory.

The second round of fixtures, played on Monday, saw Bloemfontein Celtic maintain their momentum to stay top of the table with a 100 percent record.

They disposed of Dynamos 3-0.

Sundowns made up some lost ground with a 3-1 victory away to Qwa Qwa Stars, captain Daniel Mudau grabbing a brace, but Chiefs and Pirates were not as fortunate.

A late winner form Alban Newman saw Pirates go down 2-1 at Amazulu where former national team coach Clive Barker indulged in wild celebration after the game.

Chiefs were held 1-1 by Wits University in their first home game of the season. Teenager Gareth Devine scored his first goal for Wits at the tender age of 17. Chiefs claimed the equaliser with a disputed goal in the 75th minute, Wits players insisting that Martin Zwane handled the ball before firing home.

The match highlighted the concerns of Chiefs coach Paul Dolezar about the quality of the 'Amakhosi' strike force. Dolezar said that he hoped to have Pollen Ndlanya and Fani Madida registered before next weekend.

Meanwhile, Cape Town Spurs continued their scoring spree with another three goals to add to the four scored on Saturday. This time it was Seven Stars on the receiving end, with David Kannemeyer again on the scoresheet. Spurs now find themselves second on the table behind Celtic.

ROUND-UP

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) announced last week that Ethiopia have withdrawn from the African Nations Cup qualifiers rather than play against neighbours Eritrea.

The two countries, involved in a bloody border dispute since May, were due to play in a one-off preliminary round match in neutral Egypt on August 23.

The executive committee of the Ethiopian Football Federation said that the qualifying match could not take place while the border conflict persists.

The federation requested that CAF either suspend the match until the problems are resolved or amend the draw. CAF rejected the request and urged the two countries to play in Cairo.

Eritrea now get a walkover into qualifying group one, where they will meet Cameroon, Ghana and either Botswana or Mozambique. Their opening qualifier marks their first official international since joining FIFA in June.

In England, Bafana Bafana captain Lucas Radebe was last week officially appointed as captain of Leeds United for the 1998/99 season. Radebe was heavily criticised by his international teammate Phil Masinga after the World Cup over his leadership qualities.

Radebe has been in the driving seat for Leeds United already. He was handed the captaincy during the off-season following the poor performance of former captain and Scottish international David Hopkin.

He was the cornerstone of Bafana Bafana during the World Cup finals in France. Despite the poor results achieved by South Africa, Radebe stood high and his appointment at Leeds is a vote of confidence. Graham said Radebe will have to display leadership on the field and a lot would be expected of him.

A five-man CAF delegation, headed by president Issa Hayatou, arrived in Zimbabwe on the weekend to inspect facilities for the next African Nations Cup finals. The delegation was due to inspect sites at Mutare, Masvingo, Gweru, Kwekwe, Bulawayo and the capital Harare.

Tournament director Brian Harry said that venues in Harare and Bulawayo had already been selected, but the other stadiums were still under consideration for the tournament in early 2000.

The president of Cameroon's Football Association, Vincent Onana, has been suspended from his post following his detention over a World Cup ticket sales scandal. Onana was arrested in June in connection with the alleged fraudulent sale in Europe of World Cup tickets meant for Cameroon. He denied any wrongdoing at the time.

In Senegal, Diaraf Sports Club of Dakar are tipped to win the 1998 Senegalese football championship despite being held to a goalless draw by AS Douanes in the 25th and penultimate round.

Diaraf maintained its top spot following the 2-1 defeat of rivals Ndiambour of Louga by US Rail in Thies. Diaraf now have a one point lead over Ndiambour.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES DROP

Unimpressive attendance figures at league matches have prompted the South African premier soccer league (PSL) to organise a marketing seminar at their headquarters in Johannesburg.

The function will be attended by representatives of the 18 league teams.

Marketing experts from Manchester United are also expected and it is hoped that they will impart knowledge on the promotional aspects of the game to their South African counterparts.

Andrew Dipela, a premier league spokesperson, said the purpose of the function was to enlighten various club officials on the promotion of their teams. He said the Manchester delegation would share their experience with PSL public relations officers and hoped that it would bring about the desired effect.

According to Dipela, poor crowds at matches are having an effect on the standard of the game. Most matches have been played to disappointing crowds while others have been played in front of as few as 500 spectators.

The premier league is understood to be giving out $300,000 per team every season and part of this money is intended for use in promotion of the clubs. Nevertheless, most still struggle to attract just 5 000 supporters for home games.

Meanwhile, some clubs are already taking action to boost crowds.

SuperSport United are gearing for increased support at home games after spokesman Ralph Peterson announced that prices will be dropped for all games at the Caledonian ground in Pretoria. He said adults will be charged an entrance fee of 3 dollars and children half of that.

Peterson said the club, sponsored by pay-TV station MNET, was in the process of signing quality players to strengthen their squad.

Kaizer Chiefs have also embarked on a campaign to draw additional support.

Marketing director Louis Tshakoane said the aim was to add value, and amongst other things competitions will be held, with prizes awarded before the game and at half time.

Compiled by **ASIA** ABSW's John Vrtaric

ASIAN CORRUPTION?

With corruption raising its ugly head again, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) welcomed the life-ban imposed on striker Chan Tsz-Kong by the Hong Kong Football Association on August 6 for his involvement in match fixing during the World Cup qualifying round last year.

AFC General Secretary Dato' Peter Velappan said the life-ban and the one-year prison term imposed on Tsz-Kong earlier, serve as an effective deterrent in the battle to rid the game of corrupt players and officials.

"As soon as the AFC is officially informed of the life-ban by the HKFA we will with the assistance of FIFA initiate moves to impose a worldwide ban in turn on Tsz-Kong. We also congratulate the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption for its success in the case.

"It came as a result of a relentless effort to weed out corruption in Hong Kong football. This determination is something all Asian countries currently afflicted by the match-fixing menace should emulate," Dato' Peter Velappan added.

Dato' Peter Velappan also expressed the view that it is necessary to impose stiff prison sentences on those caught for corrupt practices. "We must send a clear signal to all those involved in the business and competition that neither AFC nor FIFA will tolerate such criminal acts. The game is better off without corrupt individuals," he added.

Dato' Peter Velappan sounded the warning that corruption has now become rampant in South East Asian countries and unless national associations solicit the assistance of governments to fight this problem, all efforts made to improve the standard of football in the region will come to nought.

"I therefore urge once again all national associations to pay close attention to this problem without any further delay. Vigilance is also the order of the day," he stated.

HUGE CROWD FOR J-LEAGUE ALL-STARS

The largest crowd ever to attend a J-League soccer match turned out on Sunday night in Yokohama, where J-West beat J-East 3-1 in the annual midseason All-Star game.

The attendance of 60,566 eclipsed the 59,626 who showed up to watch the first J-League match between Verdy Kawasaki and Yokohama Marinos at the National Stadium in 1993.

Yokohama's International Stadium, the likely venue for the 2002 World Cup final, can hold a maximum of 70,000 fans.

Last year's All-Star match held in the city of Kobe drew a disappointing crowd of only 22,248. That was before Japan qualified for France '98. Since then, interest in football has soared, and gates have risen.

With Japan co-hosting the 2002 World Cup with South Korea, officials hope the J-League will continue to attract more fans.

On the evidence of the enthusiasm at Sunday's All-Star game, the J-League can look forward to a healthy future.

The match, featuring seven of Japan's World Cup starting line-up, was won by the skills of a foreign import - Yugoslavia midfielder and World Cup star Dragan Stojkovic.

His cultured play overshadowed that of his J-West teammate and Brazil World Cup captain, Dunga, as he scored one goal and made another to sow the seeds of victory on a humid night.

J-East had taken the lead at 35 minutes, when center-forward Nobuhiro Takeda controlled the ball with his back to goal and turned sharply before firing home beneath the advancing keeper.

The second half belonged to J-West and to Stojkovic. They equalized at 54 minutes after a lovely through ball from Dunga was pushed to the right of the area by Hiroaki Morishima. Stojkovic stroked the ball home from 10 meters.

The Yugoslav returned the compliment as his delightful chip into the area was mis-directed by J-East full-back Daisuke Ichikawa to Morishima, who made no mistake from close range.

The nearest J-East came to drawing even was a header from Japan's naturalized Brazilian striker, Wagner Lopes, who came back off the post from an acute angle at 72 minutes.

But Morishima finished off the victory when he grabbed a second goal 15 minutes from time with a side-footed volley at the far post from a near-perfect cross by Takashi Hirano.

Yugoslav Dragan Stojkovic scored for J-West against J-East.

"It was a great atmosphere, great to play in front of such fans," said a delighted Stojkovic. "It was very important (for Japanese football) that the stadium was almost full tonight."

The one player missing from the action was Japan's star playmaker, Hidetoshi Nakata, who is preparing for his first season in Italy's serie A with newly-promoted Perugia.

EX-COSMOS COACH IN S-LEAGUE

After his demise as coach of Canberra Cosmos, Mike Lyons landed on his feet in Singapore as coach of Marine Castle United.

In the just completed S-League, Lyons had a difficult introduction to his new role with United finishing in last position, having won only two games .

In this interview with Asian correspondents Lyons talks about his experiences with his new club.

Lyons was asked what was the greatest problem he faced when he took on his new job. "The biggest problem is that we are the 11th team that has gone into the S-League. We are the last one chosen, so we have the choice of the last 25 players. Basically, our team consisted mostly of players without any S-League experience and for the first season, it has been a real learning curve for the players.

"The mental strength of our players has been weak at times, but that is because we haven't had the experience of playing in the top class. And concentration has been poor. The higher the level of football that you play, the more you have to concentrate. I think my players have not really blended that as yet."

Although his team finished last Lyons was encouraged by the performances of his players. "When I first came over here, the first thing I said was that I would like us to be a team without any illusions. I would like us to be a team that everyone who knows and play against, it will be a battle. I think in some respect, we have achieved that.

"Some teams have been beaten 6-1, 8-2, 9-3 ... but we have always been very tight in our games. If you remember, when we played SAFFC in the last game at home ... up to 75 minutes, it was 0-0. And then the referee, who has made a wrong decision in the first half, compounded it by sending my centre-half off and SAFFC scored within seconds. We have conceded goals which I feel very dubious about. I want to look into that a lot more.

"I thought we should have won a lot more matches than we did then. Remember when we played against Woodlands, we were leading 3-1 and then we played nine minutes of injury time. I thought we were in a position to go and win matches, but the other things went against us on the pitch."

With the premiership over Lyons was asked about his thoughts on United's chances in the Tiger Beer Singapore Cup.

"The groupings? We had a season where we finished at the bottom, so whoever we are going to meet is going to be tough. We have been realistic, we know that.

"When we had the 3 groups out there, we were left either between B or C.

Looking at the groups initially, I thought we would have preferred C than B, but we got B.

"We can compete against these clubs. We got beaten by Tg. Pagar...we were beaten 1-0 or 2-1. We are there or thereabouts. It's whether we can consolidate or built on what we have achieved from the first half of the season.

"No, it's not going to be easy at all. I know that all the teams can get stronger all the time. Sometimes, that makes it a little hard for us."

After heavy defeats in the pre-season games, Lyons strengthened his team with imports, one of whom was former Melita Eagles player, Scot O'Donell.

"We played pre-season...and we got beaten 7-0 or something like that. I thought basically, we need a bit of backbone, a bit of character in this side. That's why we signed two central defenders (Ian Gore and Scott O'Donell), whom I think have a stronger frame throughout and whom I think have got good character.

"We signed Bernard (Aryee)...he did well and scored two fantastic goals against Tampines. Unfortunately for Bernard, I think he has been injured far too often this season and that hasn't really help him.

"One more priority is that I was going to get a goalkeeper, but I haven't been able to get a goalkeeper. I think, looking at the opposition now, I would very much like to strengthen the team with a goalkeeper.

Sydney United's Marcus Philips was a late, and welcome, addition to United in the latter part of the season. "Marcus Philips...he had vision in midfield and he makes things happen. Someone who could see an opening from the middle of the park and put those penetrating balls in...He has gone back to Australia and I think four teams want him. I think he will go on to be a very good player."

Lyons was asked about his impression of his local players. "By far the best local player we have had all season, has been Idham (Riduan). He has got character, he puts his foot in and works hard. He is an inspiration to the younger ones on how they should train. He is 38 years of age, which is amazing. Any runs that we do or anything, he beats everyone. He just loves football, he plays football for the love of the game. He is just excellent, in that way.

"The other local players...I would say that none really spring out, to say that I have been absolutely delighted with throughout this season. They worked hard, but I think there is an awful lot of hard work still to be done."

On being asked what type of players he required to strengthen his squad, Lyons said: "Big, strong lads who put the foot in, work hard...basically, we haven't really got big strong local lads. We have got a young lad called Adrian who play for the Under-19, but he is still a long, long way...still very raw."

Lyons wasn't impressed with the quality of his players. "But if you look at the players we have got, the problem basically is that the players who had league experience were those released by the big clubs. Roy (Yeo) got released from Jurong, Ramoo and Rahim (Ismail) were released from Woodlands.

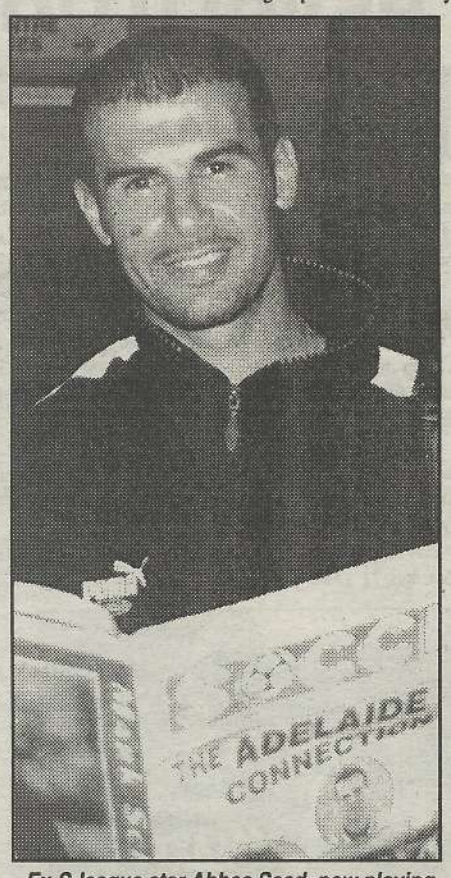
There is no one that we have signed from a different club. These are the players who have been to all the clubs...and all the clubs have let them go.

"When we came here first of all, we looked at the players available ... From the start, we tried to get that left-back from Tg. Pagar ..what's his name?

Man Hon? We tried different ways to get different players. If anyone knows where there is a local goalkeeper, give me a shout."

"What about the fans?" Lyons was asked .

"I think we have our own of group of fans and they have been very supportive; they have been great! Whatever the result, they came in, week-in-week-out. They have been with us", he replied.



Ex-S-league star Abbas Saad, now playing in Australia with Sydney United.

"I think Hougang is a very good catchment area, all we need is to get a little bit of success and people will come to watch us. With all the kids around the area, it's a good field." he added.

On his goal for the Singapore Cup, Lyons replied, "We would be happy to qualify for the semi-finals".

Compiled by **USA** ABSW's Aidan Ormond

LASSITER KING OF CONCACAF

Roy Lassiter equalled a club recored with four goals as D.C. United routed the odd-named Joe Public of Trinidad and Tobago 8-0 in the quarter-finals of the CONCACAF Champions Cup. Ben Olsen and A.J. Wood added two goals each as United set franchise records for most goals and victory margin. United, the Major League Soccer champion in 1996 and '97.

Champions Cup features the top teams from last season in the top leagues of North and Central America and the Caribbean.

Lassiter, who leads the MLS with 16 goals in 24 games, scored two goals in each half, connecting in the 22nd, 29th, 67th and 72nd minutes. Olsen, who joined United after his junior season at Virginia, had goals in the 13th and 44th minutes and added two assists. Wood, another Virginia product, scored in the 75th and 92nd minutes after coming on as a second-half substitute.

Lassiter kept up his great scoring rate when he scored twice Friday as D.C. United advanced to the final of the CONCACAF Champions Cup, beating Leon of Mexico 2-0. In the second semi-final, Mexican League champion Toluca beat Saprissa of Costa Rica 3-2 on penalty kicks after the two teams tied 1-1 in regulation.

The ace-marksman has 22 goals in his last 26 league and cup games. He scored in the 10th and 61st minutes for D.C. The first goal was set up by Jaime Moreno's nifty pass. Moreno drew two defenders along the left sideline before slotting the ball to Lassiter, alone at the far post. His second score came after Angel David Comizzo tried to make a sliding stop as he dribbled into the penalty area. Lassiter jumped over the goalkeeper, then beat a defender trying to cover the open net.

Wouldn't it be great if Australia's Grand Final winning club could, as a result, qualify for such a tournament. It is this sort of Cup that improves the standard of the developing leagues and provides even more incentive, both financial and sporting, for winning the league.

See next week for details of the final.

Meanwhile in other news ... Mexican keeper Jorge Campos notched two goals and an assist to lead the Chicago Fire of Major League Soccer over the A-League Raleigh Flyers 4-0 in an exhibition match before a crowd of 2,458 at Raleigh Flyers Stadium.

Campos, the Mexican national team goalkeeper who is known for his day-glo jerseys as much as his flamboyant playing style, came on as a second-half substitute for captain Frank Klopas and displayed his versatility as a forward. Goalkeeper Zach Thornton has another great game for the Fire

Campos, who was the big favorite of the largely Latino crowd, netted his first goal in the 56th minute on a penalty. Flyers midfielder Festus George pushed Campos down in the box to set up the penalty. Campos easily beat 'keeper Pete Sadin.

Seven minutes later, Campos set up U.S. Pro-40 player Josh Wolff with a deftly flicked header to the right around the 18 yard area. Wolff smashed a volley into the far post to put the Fire up 3-0.

The Fire's final tally came in the 76th minute when defender Tim Foster, on loan from the A-League Minnesota Thunder, made a run down the left flank. Foster knocked a low cross into the Flyers' box which a Fire player dummied through the middle to Campos, who was making a run down the right. Campos blasted a shot that hit underneath the crossbar and bounced over the goal line. Sadin and a few Flyers players signaled that the goal was no good. However match official Jon Wilson disagreed - 4-0 for the Fire.

"July was a killer month for our club," Coach Bob Bradley said. "We had ten games, obviously with the weather and the Open Cup, it has taken a lot out of our team. So unfortunately we were unable to bring our full team here. We still feel we brought a good group."

However Bradley said there were other benefits to playing cross-league matches.

"We're all trying to promote soccer in this country and this is good exposure for our league (MLS)," Bradley said. "It's a good chance to work with the A-League affiliates and see some of the younger players that are playing in the A-league and get some exposure for the Chicago Fire."

The Fire will also be preparing for the U.S. Open Cup final on Aug. 26 against the Columbus Crew. The Open Cup is the oldest cup final in the United States. Thirty-two finalist from amateur and professional clubs compete for a shot at the Dewar Cup. The Dallas Burn won the Cup in 1997 but were knocked out in the semi-finals by the Fire.

While the rash of injuries played havoc on the Fire in July, Bradley is confident that he will have his full team back in time for the Cup final being played at Virginia Beach Sports Plex.

"We hope that we will have a full team because we believe that it is a very important game," Bradley said. "New teams don't have a tradition and this is our chance to win a cup and start a little bit of the history of the Chicago Fire."

"There's still a little question with Peter Nowak but I know he's eager and if it make sense he'll be on the field in Virginia Beach."

The Crew will not be an easy opponent for the Fire. Columbus is third in the Eastern Conference with 30 points and boasts top scoring threats Brian McBride (from the US national side) and Stern John as well as a strong defence anchored by U.S. national team captain Thomas Dooley and goalkeeper Juergen Sommer. The two have split a two-match series this season.

"Our attitude is that if we're going to enter the Open Cup then we're going to try to win it and that has fallen into place pretty well," Bradley said. ABSW will have details of this in the up-coming editions.

REVOLUTION ON TRACK

Ivan McKinley scored in regulation time and added the game-winner in a shootout as the New England Revolution beat the Tampa Bay Mutiny 2-1 on Friday night.

The Revolution moved into a fifth-place tie with expansion Miami, one-point behind the Mutiny (7-18, 21 points) in the battle for the Eastern Conference's fourth and final playoff berth.

Mike Burns and Joe-Max Moore also scored for the Revolution in the shootout. Jan Eriksson and Steve Ralston converted for the Mutiny. McKinley opened the scoring in the 38th minute, and Ralston tied it with 1:25 left in the first half. Ralston has goals in three straight games.

Carlos Hermosillo scored two second-half goals as the Los Angeles Galaxy broke the Major League Soccer single-season scoring record in a 3-0 victory over Kansas City on Thursday night.

Los Angeles (19-6), the first team to clinch a playoff spot, has 71 goals with seven games left, topping D.C. United's record of 70 set last year. Hermosillo, scoreless in 10 previous games, scored his first goal in the 76th minute and made it 3-0 two minutes later. The two goals in two minutes equaled an MLS record held by three other players. Cobi Jones opened the scoring in the 32nd minute. The U.S. national team star has 13 goals in 17 games. Kevin Hartman made one save for his fourth shutout of the season before a announced crowd of 10,291 at the Rose Bowl. Mike Ammann made two saves for Kansas City (10-13).

Welton.. Galaxy star in Los Angeles

MLS Week 23

MetroStars 3 Crew 1
Galaxy 3 Wizards 1
Revolution 1 Mutiny 1
(shootout NE won 3-2)
Fusion 3, MetroStars 1
Chicago 2 San Jose 1
Colarado 0 Dallas 1

NEW YORK NEW YORK!

Jim Rooney scored the tiebreaking goal on a header in the 75th minute as the New York-New Jersey MetroStars beat the Columbus Crew 3-1 on Wednesday night.

Rooney scored the winning goal when he nodded in Eduardo Hurtado's cross from the right side of the box. Rooney's header, his eighth goal of the season, went under goalkeeper Juergen Sommer's hand.

The MetroStars opened the scoring in the 58th minute on Marcelo Vega's first goal of the season.Columbus' Jeff Cunningham tied it in 69th minute, just four minutes after entering the game as a substitute. Miles Joseph made it 3-1 in the 88th minute.

David Kramer made seven saves and five different Clash players scored Sunday as San Jose beat the New York-New Jersey MetroStars 5-1.

Defender John Doyle began the scoring for the Clash (9-14) in the 20th minute. Braeden Cloutier broke a 1-1 tie in the 60th minute, when he pounced on a loose ball and beat Tony Meola with a shot inside the far post.

New England Revolution play a key match Friday night at Tampa, still hoping to sneak into the fourth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

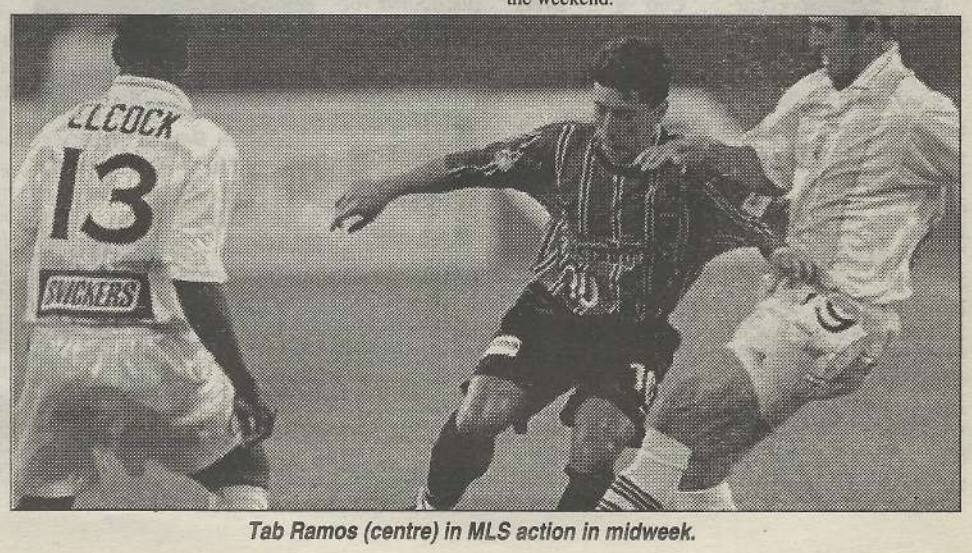
It's New England's last trip to Houlihan Stadium to face the Mutiny this season, trailing Tampa Bay by two points. Revolution will get 19-year-old Jamar Beasley into the lineup for the first time. Beasley became the first player in MLS history to sign a contract while in high school.

He's lived up to his billing, leading the U.S. Under-20 national team in scoring this year and helping the USA gain a berth in the World Championships in Nigeria.

Josh Wolff scored in the 80th minute Saturday night as the Chicago Fire beat the San Jose Clash 2-1 in Major League Soccer to break a five-game losing streak.

And Chad Deering's first goal of the season gave Dallas a 1-0 victory over Colorado in Major league Soccer also on Saturday night.

MLS games are staggered so they maximise coverage potential, hence games are played Wednesday through to the weekend.



Tab Ramos (centre) in MLS action in midweek.

Compiled by **LATIN** ABSW

BRAZILIANS IN BOX SEAT FOR LIBERTADORES CUP GLORY

Vasco da Gama (Brazil) beat Barcelona (Ecuador) 2-0 (halftime 2-0) in the first leg of the South American Libertadores Cup final on Wednesday August 13.

Scorers: Donizete 7, Luizao 34

Attendance: 35,000

Vasco da Gama - 1-Carlos Germano: 10-Wagner (2-Vitor, 65), 4-Mauro Galvao, 3-Odvan, 6-Felipe, 5-Luisinho, 8-Nasa, 16-Pedrinho (11-Ramon, 66), 19-Juninho, 7-Donizete, 9-Luizao

Barcelona - 1-Jose Ceballos: 2-Luis Gomez (23-Wagner Rivera, 37), 3-Jimmy Montanero, 24-Holger Quinonez, 6-Luis Capurro, 16-Julio Rosero (5-Hector Caraballi, 46), 25-Macias (17-Fricson George, 58), 8-Marcelo Morales, 15-Washington Aires, 11-Nicolas Ascencio, 21-Anthony de Avila.

Second leg: August 26.

Two unbelievable first-half goals gave Brazil's Vasco da Gama a 2-0 win over Ecuador's Barcelona in the first leg of the South American Libertadores Cup final last Wednesday. A lovely long-range drive by Donizete in the seventh minute and a goal by fellow striker Luizao, who scored after a delightful move with Mauro Galvao in the Barcelona penalty area, put the Brazilian champions in a good position for the second leg in eight days.

But Vasco, for whom 36-year-old defender and captain Mauro Galvao had an outstanding game, might have regretted that it failed to open a bigger advantage after creating a host of chances in the second half.

It still has a tricky task to defend its lead in the port city of Guayaquil, where it will face Barcelona's claustrophobic 80,000-capacity stadium and oppressive humidity.

Libertadores rounds are decided by aggregate score but, unlike in European competitions, away goals are not used to decide drawn ties, which also go straight to penalties without extra time being played.

The match was preceded by a five-minute fireworks display, which left Vasco's 35,000 capacity Sao Januario stadium, situated in a run-down industrial area and surrounded by shanty-towns, in choking smoke.

Barcelona took advantage to sneak onto the pitch and avoid being jeered at by the Vasco fans.

Barcelona, aiming to become the first club from its country to win the tournament, suffered a severe blow with Donizete's goal, which came after one of their defenders slipped and lost the ball to the Vasco player.

Luizao, who returned to Brazil to join Vasco after six unhappy months with Spain's Deportivo Coruna last year, increased the lead in the 34th minute after defender Mauro Galvao flicked the ball to him between two defenders in the penalty area.

Shortly afterward, Luizao's flicked shot was well saved by Barcelona goalkeeper Jose Cevallos.

Barcelona had plenty of possession in the first half but were let down by an ineffective performance in attack from Colombian World Cup player Anthony de Avila.

Vasco, which has never won the trophy, made more chances in the second half but was repeatedly thwarted.

Pedrinho saw a 30-meter shot thump against the crossbar shortly after halftime.

Luizao twice broke clear of the Barcelona defence but saw one shot saved and another go wide while Cevallos defied Ramon from point-blank range.

Midfielder Juninho was also close with a long-range free kick, similar to the one from which he scored the winning goal in the semi-final against Argentina's River Plate.

But the Ecuadorean team, so-named because the club was founded by Catalan immigrants, did enough to show that the series is far from over.

Vasco's Odvan in spectacular style during the final.
Above left: Felipe of Vasco (white shirt) with Aires of Barcelona.

Vanderley Luxemburgo

Vanderley Luxemburgo, the man with the Hollywood name has been given one of the biggest stages in the world to star on: the post of coach of fallen idols Brazil.

He follows Mario Zagallo, who was removed after the disappointing (from Brazil's standards) France 98 showing.

"I am very satisfied," he said. "To be part of the national team is the objective of any soccer professional, be he a coach or a player."

He said it is premature to discuss plans for the team until personnel in the national soccer federation is set and "priorities are established."

The squad was plagued with disagreements among players and management, and Luxemburgo said one of his first jobs will be to end the "vanity" that beset the team.

Luxemburgo, 46, is the coach of first-place Corinthians. He will continue coaching the team until the end of the national championships in December.

The first players for the new national team are expected to be named in September for the year's remaining three or four exhibition games. Australia, if they qualify, will play in the same tournament as Brazil in January (the Confederations' Cup).

Since beginning his coaching career in 1983, Luxemburgo has coached 14 teams, including two in Saudi Arabia. He led Palmeiras to the national championship in 1993 and 1994.

Luxemburgo had an ordinary 11-year career (1971-1982) as a player. He gained national attention in 1990 as coach of Bragantino, an obscure team that won the Sao Paulo state championship.

After coaching Flamengo in 1995, he returned to Palmeiras. He coached Santos in 1997 and this year joined Corinthians.

The former president of Argentine first division side Deportivo Espanol was charged last week with fraud after he allowed players to leave the club while it was in bankruptcy proceedings, the Telam news agency has reported.

The charges, set down by Judge Maria Cristina Bertola, said that by signing contracts with the four players allowing them to leave at will, Francisco Rios Seone was illegally allowing the club to lose assets.

The judge also charged the four players and the former club secretary as being accomplices.

A dispute between Deportivo Espanol and the four players flared when the four in question wanted to leave the club in July 1997, but the club refused their demands and a short strike resulted which impacted on first division games.

Compiled by **LATIN** ABSW

Copa Mercosur 1998 Copa Mercosur 1998 Copa Mercosur 1998

In the latest round of matches in the Mercosur Cup, Universidad de Chile have comprehensively beaten Independiente of Argentina 3-0 at home in Chile's capital Santiago.

The goals were scored by Pedro Gonzalez after 27 minutes and Leo Rodriguez after 37 and 68 minutes.

The line-ups:
Universidad de Chile:
Vargas, Acuna, Morra, Fuentes, Olarra, Galdamez, Mussri, Valencia (Mafla 67), Rodriguez (Castaneda 78), Gonzalez, Maestri.

Independiente: Mondragon, Ramirez, Pena, Milito, Diaz, Hanuch, Toresani (Amaya 58), Casini, Lopez, Gurerro (Arsenio 35), Calderon (Garnero 58).

Still in Chile and Colo Colo are on top of the league ladder after a 1-0 victory over Coquimbo. Colo Colo, on 29 points, are now five points clear of second-placed Conception. Third lies Huachipato on 22 and fourth is Cobreala on 20

And below is a player we receive constant requests for. He is arguable the most popular keeper in the world, and is definitely a character of the game: J.L. Chilavert of Paraguay.

Alfredo Cassini (centre)of Independiente in action during their ill-fated Mercosur Cup game in Chile.

Chilavert pictorial

RONALDO DEBATE: JUST DO IT?

Voicing what many Brazilians already believe, midfielder Edmundo has said, and it was subsequently reported over the Internet, that it was a contract between the Brazilian confederation and Nike that resulted in Ronaldo playing in the World Cup final, despite illness.

"The Nike business is true," Edmundo said in a taped interview published by Brazilian newspapers on Wednesday. "There's a contract that [says] Ronaldo must play every game for the full 90 minutes."

Speculation about Ronaldo's appearance and performance has raged since the final whistle on July 12 in Saint-Denis, France, where the French ran over Brazil 3-0 to win the World Cup title.

The mystery started when Edmundo appeared in the starting line-up instead of Ronaldo, who was listed among the subsitutes, issued more than an hour before kickoff.

Then, 15 minutes later, just as inexplicably, a new starting line-up was issued with Ronaldo instead of Edmundo.

A tepid performance, devoid of heart and soul, led to questions and revelations in post-game interviews that Ronaldo had vomited earlier in the day but was cleared by doctors to play.

Coach Mario Zagallo admitted "Ronaldo shouldn't have played" but then erupted into a tirade when someone questioned why he re-inserted the 22-year-old striker into the starting 11.

At the time, Zagallo said he decided to start Ronaldo to restore the confidence of the squad.

Ronaldo later said he had gone into convulsions before the game, and rumors flew that he played under orders from above.

U.S. sportswear maker Nike, which paid more than $200 million to the CBF in 1996 as part of a 10-year sponsorship deal, became an obvious target of the speculation.

During the week preceeding the start of the World Cup, some players groused at having to appear at a Nike promotional event in Paris, saying they were ordered by Nike to break off practice to attend.

But a Nike official said the event was scheduled months before the team's arrival and that it did not ordered training to be cut short.

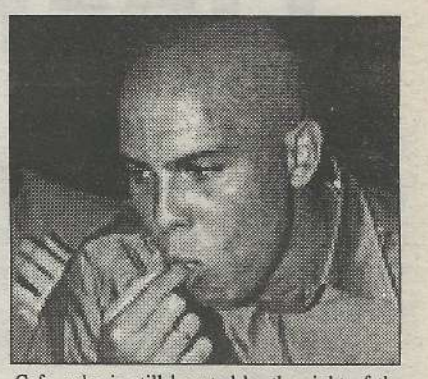
Nike again was forced to deny the new rumors, with an official quoted in Wednesday's reports as saying it would be "madness" to interfere in such a situation.

Of the 22 players on Brazil's World Cup roster, 11 were under personal contracts to Nike. Chief among them was Ronaldo, who has a lifetime contract with the company.

Edmundo said details of Nike's contract were worked out personally by confederation President Ricardo Teixeira.

"Nike is strong," Edmundo was quoted as saying. "It negotiated directly with the president. That means, the president took a percentage."

In yet another story on the most famous striker in the world, Ronaldo is under far too much pressure according to Brazil teammate



Cafu, who is still haunted by the sight of the striker's convulsions on the day of the World Cup final.

Cafu is back training this week with Italian Serie A side AS Roma, but the events of July 12 in Paris are still fresh in the defender's mind.

"I'm sure that Ronaldo will be back at his best with Inter Milan," he said. "But we all have to forget what happened on a very difficult day for him.

"Everywhere he goes, people are asking him about that incident. He is young and he is under too much pressure, he has too much responsibility.

"It's absurd for a youngster who's 21 years old. Inter have to help him, and it's only right for him to have had a longer holiday than others."

Cafu ...

Casting back to the day of the final, Cafu said: "When I went into his room and I saw him lying there, having convulsions, I was frightened.

"They were terrible moments, and are best forgotten."

Ronaldo later recovered and joined the rest of the team at the Stade de France, ready to play, even though he had been left off the original team sheet issued by the organisers.

To conceal what was going on behind the scenes, Brazil did not come out onto the pitch for the usual pre-match warm-up.

"And that was why," Cafu said. "When we arrived at the stadium, Edmundo was supposed to play, and then Ronaldo arrived.

"We stayed down below because we didn't want people to see he wasn't there, so as to avoid any controversy."

As for the decision to play Ronaldo, Cafu said: "Someone had to take the decision, and the last word is always with the coach. We didn't know anything about that, but he seemed alright when we were getting ready."

Cafu stuck up for his striker nevertheless. "That's not why we lost," he said. "France were the better team. But we didn't feel confident when we walked out, we didn't know if he could play."

Looking ahead, Ronaldo's team are already being tipped among the favourites for the Italian league title."

"But this season it's got to be AS Roma's turn," said Cafu. "We've all got to believe that we can win either the championship or a cup.

"Being tipped doesn't count for anything when you take the field, it's the best team on the day who wins. Brazil were favourites to win the World Cup, but then..."

Compiled by

GREECE

ABSW's A.D. Akratos

The second preliminary round was played midweek in the Champions League with the following results:

Greek champions Olympiakos Pireaus narrowly defeated Anorthosis Famagusta of Cyprus 2-1 in the first leg of their European Cup second qualifying round tie on Wednesday after allowing the visitors back into the match.

Olympiakos, who dominated the first half, went ahead when midfielder Stelios Giannakopoulos headed home in the 11th minute after a cross from Luciano De Souza. De Souza's made it 2-0 after 32 minutes direct from a free-kick.

But the Greeks lost their momentum when influential midfielder Petros Passalis was injured and replaced just before the end of the first half.

Anorthosis came more into the game in the second half, and kept the tie alive when Vesko Michajlovic headed home in the 65th minute after a cross by Yugoslav midefielder Vlada Tomic.

Meanwhile Steaua Bucharest twice came from behind to draw 2-2 with Panathinaikos in the first leg of their European Cup second qualifying round tie on Wednesday.

Croat Aliosa Asanovic put the Greek side ahead in the ninth minute with a shot from the edge of the area - helped in no small way by a mistake from Steaua's inexperienced reserve goalkeeper Gabriel Rotaru.

But Steaua were level within three minutes when defender Valeriu Rachita hit the bar from a free kick and Denis Serban made no mistake from five metres out.

Asanovic created Panathinaikos's second goal when he crossed from the left for midfielder Nikos Lymperopoulos to head home after 68 minutes.

Steaua, European champions 12 years ago, took seven minutes to level for a second time when midfielder Mihai Szekely equalized after a powerful shot into the far corner of Panathinaikos's net which gave Polish

And we continue with our summer wrap up:

PAOK Salonica versus Glasgow Rangers.

JULY 2

Sad day for incoming national coach, Anghel Iordanescu, as his last game in charge of Romania results in a 1-0 loss to Croatia from a Davor Suker goal.

And so the Balkan team bows out of France '98 and Anghel moves on to his next challenge of Euro 2000.

Aris, Division 2 champions, finally end their search to find a new owner when owner Ioannides meets with (soon to be appointed) Dimitri Konomina to discuss the sale and the team's long term ambitions.

Sergio Marcarian is appointed new coach of Ionikos.

JULY 3

Panionios announce their capture of Elefsina player, Thanasi Gazi, only to find themselves embroiled in a tussle with Paneliakos for the player who also lodge a signed contract with the FA.

New AEK coach makes finding a sweeper his main target for the summer and turns his attention to the Bundesliga.

Pantellis Konstandinidis (Apollon) signs with PAOK for 4 years and team ranks are further boosted with new signings Vasili Samaras (Panahaiki), Kostas Kyriakidis (Doxa) and Tasos Katsiambis (Panionios). Additionally, after an absence of over 2 years, Kostas Lagonidis, 33, returns to the club on a one year contract to see out his career at the club where he made his name.

JULY 4

Robert Jarni seems to be joining Aloysa Asanovic at PAO after a joint press conference with club supremo George Vardinogiannis reveals that they have agreed personal terms.

JULY 7

Twenty-three year old Peruvian international midfielder, Carlos Flores, joins Aris for three years.

Iraklis U-21 international, Sotiris Konstandinidis, enters hospital for a minor operation to an ongoing groin problem and will be out of action for 3 weeks.

International keeper Giorgios Amanatidid breaks his arm in a freak training accident and will be in plaster for four weeks.

Ethnikos, Pierikos and Rethimnou are brought before the FA due the shocking state of their finances. The FA is no mood for leniency and orders the clubs to seek external assistance to resolve their predicament or else risk being de-registered.

Kalitzakis of AEK

JULY 8

The draws for the European Cups are made with Olympiakos to play (eventual winner from Preliminary Round A) Anorthosis (Cyprus) and PAO to play (eventual winner from Preliminary Round A) Steaua Bucharest.

JULY 11

Panahaiki striker, Vasili Andreadis, signs with Panelefsiniakos for two years as the player drain continues at the recently relegated club.

Africa Power! Two Zaire defenders, Mogoko and Kintono, score trials with Iraklis in the club's desperate bid to bolster a faltering defence.

Giorgios Karagounis, U-21 international captain, returns to PAO after a 2 year loan to Apollon.

Finally! Demis Nikolaidis puts pen to paper for a 1 + 2 year contract with AEK ending speculation of a big money move abroad.

JULY 13

The FA releases the official list of coaches for the Division 1 clubs for the 1998-99 season (complete at this time):

AEK- Dragoslav Stepanovic; PAO- Vasili Daniel; Xanthi- Yianni Mazouranni; PAOK- Angelo Anastasiadis; Apollon- Zoran Jertovic; Olympiakos- Dusan Bayevic; Panionios- Ronnie Whelan; Aris- Giorgos Fairos; Iraklis- Dortinovski; Paneliakos- Yianni Kyrastas; OFI- Ergen Gerant

JULY 14

What a difference 24 hours make! PAOK coack Angelo Anastasiadis resigns due to differences with the club owners. New coach is tipped to be Ukranian Oleg Blochin.

Paris Zoumboulis leaves for England to trial with Notts County.

According to IFFS statistics only three Greek teams made the top 100 ranked places in FIFA club standings. The teams were PAOK (45), Olympiakos (66) and AEK (80) while PAO was a distant 117th.

The relationship between George X. Georgiadis and PAO hits rock bottom as the club prepares to take court action to prevent his transfer to Newcastle.

JULY 16

Predrag Jorgevic of Olympiakos applies for Greek citizenship.

Veteran midfielder Dimitris Moutas signs with Kaval for two years. Vasil Tsartas joins AEK on loan as the club cannot afford his full transfer fee.

Greece rises 5 places in FIFA rankings to 50th.

Nikos Samoladas joins Niki Volou for 2 years after failing to agree to a new contract with Paneliakos.

JULY 18

Giorgos Apostolopoulos (who owns a plethora of private medical centres) offers to buy PAOK from owner Giorgos vatakoukis with the intention of reinstating departed coach Angelo Anastasiadis and luring back former player Theodoros Zagorakis from Leicester.

Olympiakos sign Luciano de Souza.

FIFA decides in favour of Georgos X. Georgiadis and PAO are forced to allow the player to join Newcastle.

Paneliakos try to induce veteran stopper, Stavro Koloskapi, to terminate his contract for a settlement from the club but as the player refuses, the matter is bound for the FA.

Poles Josef Vantic and Hristo Warziecha become Greek citizens.

JULY 20

Pre-season friendlies get underway with Olympiakos triumphant 3-2 over Sparta Prague, PAO thrash hapless Kallithea 7-1 and AEK draw 2-2 with FC Tyrol. Meanwhile PAOK beat Galatsaray 2-0, Iraklis crush Darhauus 7-0 and relegated Panahaiki spank promoted Ethnikos Asteras 4-0.

Minas Hatzidis, the veteran Iraklis defender joins Veria.

Oh the joy. The EU Court decides to set aside UEFA's ban of AEK from European competition in order to consider the matter more thoroughly. The matter will now be heard at the end of the 1998-99 season, so at least for 1 more year there will European competition at the Nikos Goumas stadium.

JULY 23

Olyroo Tansel Baser of South Melbourne is set to join Skoda Xanthi as they continue to search for a solution to their defensive woes.

Alekos Dellos, 27, has a change of heart and instead of joining PAOK will remain as Veria's first choice keeper.

The U-21 teams scores a 2-1 over Sweden with Delmekouras and Vakoufsis the scorers.

Hristos Emoliadis leaves Panionios to take charge at 4th Division Halkideras. As caretaker coach, Emboliadis guided Panionios to the Greek FA Cup but has been replaced by ex-Liverpool star, Ronnie Whelan.

Aris continue rebuilding and sign Nagoli Kennedy.

JULY 25

AEK offer a two year contract to Skopjan libero Bosko Babuski.

Sloban Bratislava accepts a trial with Niki Volou while Vasili Damiac joins Edessiako.

JULY 28

Giorgos Donis and Demis Nikolaidis give AEK a 2-0 win at Stuttgart while Lazio draw 1-1 with PAO, Veria are thrashed 3-0 by PAOK and Olympiakos go down 1–0 to Breda.

23 year old international centre half Kostas Maglos joins PAO on a 2 year contract and Dejan Jorgevic will join Pierikos as the club's new sweeper.

JULY 31

Steaua Bucharest squeeze through to meet PAO in the next preliminary round of the Champions League despite losing 3-1 away to Flora Tailin, courtesy of an earlier 4-1 home win. On the same day Anorthosis annihilate Valetta of Malta 6-0 to set a similar date with Olympiakos.

Olympiakos find form to beat Strassbourg 20 (Gianakopoulos and Oforique scorers).

Hristo Karamanis joins Iraklis as their new keeper for three years.

Compiled by ABSW's Joe Russo

ITALY

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NEWS OF THE WEEK

Italian anti-doping investigators said they wanted to interview Chelsea's Gianluca Vialli and Juventus' Alessandro Del Piero in the wake of allegations by AS Roma coach Zdenek Zeman.

Zeman had been summoned before the national Olympic committee (CONI), which in Italy also doubles as the country's sports ministry, after claiming last week that drugs were being used in the Serie A.

He also expressed amazement at the muscle development on present and former Juventus stars Del Piero and Vialli. Del Piero and Juventus have subsequently announced legal proceedings against him for defamation.

But after a two-hour session before CONI's anti-doping enquiry, Zeman seemed satisfied with the outcome, saying: "The people I have spoken to are keen to understand the problem and to solve it."

Ugo Longo, who heads the CONI enquiry, said he and his colleagues were taking Zeman's comments seriously and added they would now be summoning both Vialli and Del Piero, among others, to appear before them.

Longo said: "The inquiry cannot ignore the cry of alarm from someone who lives in the world of football. Our aim is to make things clear as soon as possible using all the means available to us.

"Zeman spoke about products without being able to specify what they were.

"Certainly, they are not among those substances considered as doping. But he reported certain facts which in his opinion are inexplicable, such as certain improvements in performance and muscle-development.

"It was an interesting meeting and one that raised a series of problems which are of interest to the anti-doping inquiry."

Chelsea's player-coach Gianluca Vialli blasted AS Roma's Zdenek Zeman, saying that his drugs claims are just a plot to undermine the Italian's former club, Juventus.

Vialli admitted taking creatine, a substance found naturally in meat which stores and distributes energy in the body, but said his muscular physique was just down to hard training.

Zeman has sparked controversy by warning that drugs are being used in the Serie A, and by expressing his amazement at the muscles on Vialli and Alessandro Del Piero.

Vialli hit back in a newspaper interview from London with La Stampa, the Turin newspaper controlled by the same Agnelli family who own Juventus.

Asked why he did not simply deny Zeman's insinuations last week, instead of just calling him a terrorist, Vialli said: "Some people would have thought I had something to hide.

Del Piero ... caught up in the drug furore.

"Now I just hope that things escalate to the point where we end up in court, and it will be a joy to relieve the stingiest man in football of many millions of lira and to give them to charity.

"He has created a witch-hunt which I fear could harm a lot of people.

Zdenek Zeman ... his allegations have enraged some in Italy.

"If it had come from someone else, I'd see it differently. If someone wanted to keep people from falling into the trap of using illicit substances then I would support him.

"But reading what he said, I am certain that it's all a carefully-planned scheme to hit Juventus, and I don't think there's just Zeman behind it."

As for his own muscle development, Vialli said: "When a young man does sport every day, if his muscles don't develop it either means he's not well or his training is wrong.

"The idea that my muscles have undergone an explosion exists only in the mind of Zeman, but it's understandable" he explained ironically.

"All you have to do is roll your football socks up or have them halfway down your leg, change the direction of the stripes on your shirt and shave all your hair off — and it makes you look stronger."

Vialli said he hated weight-training, and wasn't very good at it, claiming instead that his career had been extended by the tough training programmes drawn up by Juventus trainer Gianpiero Ventrone.

"With Ventrone, I realised the need to work on your physique...and I am trying to copy from Juventus at Chelsea in the organisation and methods of working: they are the best in the world.

"Unfortunately, I don't have all the means to do so," he said. "We have to be equipped for it."

To sustain Ventrone's workouts, Vialli admitted: "We took creatine, and even Zeman has admitted giving that when he was at Lazio ... I also took supplements like Enervit, the stuff you buy in supermarkets and which restores the balance of salts in the body.

"In the end, I'm lucky to be here in England and not in Italy," he said. " Because otherwise I might have already got my hands on Zeman."

Champions Juventus are having a row with the French soccer federation over releasing World Cup stars Zinedine Zidane and Didier Deschamps for a friendly against Austria.

France's new coach Roger Lemerre included the two prized midfielders for the game in Vienna tomorrow (Wed).

But the call-up has caused anger here among club officials, who only got their men back from prolonged holidays ten days ago. Juventus' next game is on Thursday (Aug 13) at Cesena against Raja Casablanca.

"I was very shocked about it," said coach Marcello Lippi, " because there has to be a minimum amount of logic to things.

"The two French players have been training for three days, they haven't played a friendly and they won't even play at Cesena, so just imagine if they can play with the national side.

"They have had extended holidays and will not be ready to play for at least two weeks.

"If they get injured now, we'll lose them for at least two months."

Roberto Baggio ... a great start for Inter and perhaps a harbinger of things to come?

However, Lippi remained hopeful that an amicable solution could be found.

"Fortunately, we have a great dialogue with the French football federation, and I explained all this to their official who came to Turin to talk to me about it and he understood."

Lippi meanwhile re-stated his belief that recent doping claims by AS Roma coach Zdenek Zeman, who pointed the finger at Gianluca Vialli and Alessandro Del Piero, are just a campaign to de-stabilise his side.

"What has made me most bitter over the last few days is the feeling that some of the great work done in recent years is being taken away," he said.

As for the effect on his team this season, Lippi said: "If beforehand we knew that we would have to give 100 percent, now we'll have to give 120 percent, and get used to having a very strong wind against us.

"We will certainly have the right motivation," he promised. "But there are a few sources of it that we could happily have done without."

Well-done Roberto Baggio. Scoring one goal and setting up three for new club Internazionale against Latvians Skonto Riga in the Euro Champions Cup qualifiers.

Dino Zoff the newly appointed national team coach, will be sleeping a little uneasy as his time to make his debut comes a little closer. In fact the date is the September 5, when the "Azzurri" open their European qualifiers against Wales.

Italians may well feel that the English Premier League is their own given the amount of expatriats playing over there.

It is a long way from about five years ago when Nottingham Forest signed then Torino star Andrea Silenzi. Just for the record Silenzi was a complete disaster in England and was promptly sent home! Chelsea of course these days are hiring Italian translators and interpreters in order to keep up with their signings of Vialli, Zola, Di Matteo and Casiraghi in recent years.

It is always nice to see Australian players doing well abroad. However very few have been successful in Italy. Current Marconi coach Frank Farina springs to mind.

His stint in 1991/92 as Bari was a complete waste of time for both himself and Bari. Mind you a run of injuries didn't help as well. John Aloisi was briefly starting in the Serie A a couple of seasons ago with Cremonese until Terry Venables entered his life and he moved on to Portsmouth in England.

However a name that seems to have been forgotten in both the Australian and more importantly Italian press is none other than Lazio defender Paul Okon. Last season he didn't play a game due to injury and this season so far hasn't even rated a mention.

Finally spare a thought for Inter coach Gigi Simoni and new Bologna coach Carlo Mazzone. Amid all this controversy about drugs in sport and in particular the Serie A, these two have actually came out in support of Zdenek Zeman.

In Italy they are calling it "il caso Zeman" (the Zeman case), but it may well be the Zeman/Simoni/Mazzone case. Very few media outlets have actually picked up this aspect of the story, but it has not slipped us by here at ABSW, then again it was in ABSW that you read the Zeman story first, three weeks ago!

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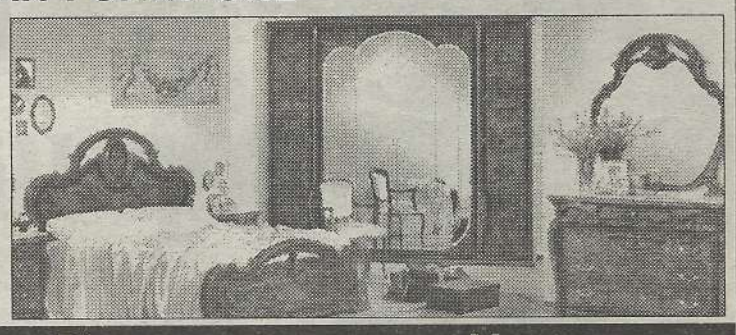

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Compiled by **EUROPE** ABSW's Mark Fowler

BARCELONA INJURIES

Barcelona will be missing a host of players for the first leg of their Spanish Supercup match against Mallorca.

Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson now joins an injury list that already boasts Sergi, Albert Celades, Winston Bogarde and Emmanuel Amunike.

Anderson picked up an ankle injury in training and is expected to be out for a month. His absence means midfielder Luis Enrique will probably partner Rivaldo up front.

To add to coach Luis van Gaal's problems, Portuguese internationals Victor Baia and Luis Figo are wanted by their country for a match against Mozambique on August 19, the day after the Mallorca game.

Luis Enrique

BROLIN RETIRES

Swedish international striker Tomas Brolin has retired after seeing his footballing fortunes plummet over the past three years.

The 28 year old told the Swedish news agency TT, "I have no motivation to stay on at the elite level. You might as well step down now and focus on other things in the future."

A hero in his native country and one of the three top European players in 1994, Brolin's career suffered after a move to English premier league team Leeds United. His move from Parma in November 1995 was a disaster, as he often seemed to be unfit, injured or uninterested. In his two year spell at Leeds he scored only four goals.

He fell out with new Leeds boss George Graham, who ended Brolin,s contract early. A number of clubs were rumoured to be trying to sign the chubby-faced striker, ranging from Real Zaragoza in Spain to English first division side Bradford City, who offered to take Brolin on loan so Leeds wouldn't need to pay his large wages.

Nothing came of these moves came to anything however, until in January this year he signed for Crystal Palace.

After two months he was named assistant manager to Attilio Lombardo, but was released by Palace in May after making 15 appearances without scoring.

Brolin was capped 43 times for his country and was Sweden's most recognised player in both the 1992 European Championships and the 1994 world cup. He intends to concentrate on his business of marketing football boots and his vacuum cleaning business!

Azerbaijan beat Georgia 1-0 last Wednesday (August 12) in the first full friendly international between the Caucasian neighbours.

The goalscorer was Emil Agayev, who netted in the 65th minute after collecting a pass from fellow striker Kurban Kurbanov.

Georgia was missing several players from champions Dynamo Tblisi, who played on the same night against Athletico Bilbao in a Champions' League qualifying match.

RUSSIAN EXILES RETURN

Russia coach Anatoly Byshovets has recalled a number of foreign-based players for his first match in charge.

The friendly in Sweden sees the recall of Chelsea goalkeeper Dmitry Kharin, Andrei Kanchelskis and controversial SV Hamburg striker Sergei Kiryakov.

Kiryakov was dramatically ordered home during the European Championships in 1996 by then coach Oleg Romantsev, who accused him of undermining morale. He has not played for Russia since, but joins up with players like Igor Kolyvanov and Sergei Yuran in a 25 man squad.

Another player earning a recall after last playing in Euro 96 is veteran Igor Dobrovolsky, who may play as a libero. Byshovets said he was still experimenting with a number of ideas and had a number of locally based players in mind for future call-ups.

Romanian Ilie Dumitrescu has returned to Steau Bucharest after being released by Mexican club Atlante.

Dumitrescu, 29, played for Steau between 1988 and 1994, scoring 71 goals in 163 appearances.

His travels after leaving Steau took him to Spurs, Sevilla and West Ham, and he will team up with fellow veterans Miodrag Belodedici and Marius Lacatus.

EUROPEAN CUP

SECOND ROUND QUALIFIERS

PSV STUNNED!

Slovenia's Maribor caused a huge upset by beating Dutch side PSV Eindhoven 2-1 in the first leg of their European Cup second round qualifying tie. Substitute Peter Breznik was the hero for the Slovenian's, netting the winner in the 85th minute only a minute after coming on as a substitute.

The Slovenians took the lead through Dalibor Filipovic, but PSV struck back on the hour through Marcos Dos Santos. Normal service seemed to be resumed until Breznik's late winner.

"We played very well throughout the game and that resulted in the biggest success of a Slovenian club soccer so far," said Maribor coach Bojan Pasnikar, while captain Matkaz Kek said, "This is the first time for a Slovene club to defeat a Dutch giant like Eindhoven, I believe this is a holiday for Slovenian soccer."

BILBAO HAVE CHANCE

Despite losing 2-1 away at Georgian champions Dynamo Tblisi, Athletico Bilbao of Spain will feel pleased after being 2-0 down after half an hour.

The Georgians went ahead through Levan Khomeriki and Levan Tskitishvili, but were punished just two minutes into the second half by Andoni Imaz, who capitalised on a mistake by Dynamo full-back Zviab Zeladze. Zaladze headed the ball straight to Imaz, who scored the goal, which will leave the Spaniards confident of progressing.

BENFICA HIT A SIX!

Benfica made virtually sure of reaching the Champions' League by smashing six past Beitar Jerusalem of Israel in their home tie. Welsh midfielder Mark Pembridge scored twice, to go on the scoresheet with Brian Deane, Jose Calado, Nuno Gomes and an own goal.

Another team who would expect to be in the Champions' League is Russian champions Spartak Moscow, who demolished Liteks Kovech of Bulgaria 5-0.

After a scoreless first half, goals by Nikolai Pisarev (2) Egor Titov, Leonardo Samarone and Ilya Tsimbalar should make the second leg a formality.

GALATASARAY TRIUMPH

Turkish giants Galatasaray defeated Grasshoppers of Switzerland 2-1 in the first leg of their European Cup second round qualifying tie last Wednesday (August 12).

A penalty from Gheorghe Hagi and a spectacular strike from Hakan Sukur ensured victory against the Swiss side, who got a valuable late away goal through an 87th minute penalty from Johann Vogel.

Grasshoppers looked the better side until Galatasaray scored, but in the end it was an even match although it took two good saves from Taffarel to deny the Swiss attack.

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Compiled by **EUROPE** ABSW's Mark Fowler

BAD BOY IS BACK

Steffan Effenberg has been recalled to the German national team after a four year absence. Effenberg was sent home in disgrace from the 1994 World Cup in the US after sticking his middle finger up at the crowd who were whistling him.

German coach Berti Vogts, who at the time said Effenberg would never play for Germany again, has selected the midfielder for the two friendlies against Malta and Romania next month.

"We have never spoken again of the things that happened in the 1994 World Cup," said Vogts. "That was a long time ago and it's forgotten."

Berti Vogts ... "it's forgotten."

Vogts desperately needed a playmaker in midfielder after his countries poor showing in France, and the feeling is Effenberg is that player.

Effenberg has been a controversial figure in Germany for a number of years. While his talent has never been questioned, his outlandish statements and his temperament often have.

Daily newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung labelled him the German international with the worse image of all time and also said "no one has divided the nation like the turbulent Effenberg."

When he first played for Moenchengladbach, he took out the coach's jeep for a joy ride and crashed it.

He then moved to Bayern in 1990, and made statements such as, "A player who wants to have my position can't be my friend. He is after my money and I have to defend myself."

After suffering abuse from the terraces in Germany, he moved to Italy and spent three years at Fiorentina.

In 1995 he returned to Moenchengladbach, and hit the headlines a year ago when he and his wife were acquitted on charges of assaulting a drunken man outside their home.

GERMANY

A second-half goal by Giovane Elber lifted German first division title favorite Bayern Munich to a 1-0 win at VfL Wolfsburg in their opening match of the new season on Saturday.

Brazilian striker Elber squeezed past Wolfsburg's Croatian defender Marijan Kovacevik to score the only goal of an otherwise uneventful match with a shot from inside the penalty area in the 65th minute.

Bayern, eager to recapture the title it lost to unfancied Kaiserslautern last May, needed time to settle and suffered from the absence in midfield of Mehmet Scholl and Mario Basler, both injured.

Helped by the organizing skills of playmaker Stefan Effenberg, who has rejoined Bayern from Borussia Moenchengladbach, the ambitious Munich side was clearly the better team in the second half.

"Wolfsburg played well and we were too slow in the first half," said Bayern's new coach Ottmar Hitzfeld. "In the second half, we played much better and deserved our victory."

The in-form Elber has now scored five goals in three matches after a hat-trick in a 4-0 demolition of VfB Stuttgart in the League Cup final last Saturday and one goal in another 4-0 win over Obilic Belgrade in an European Cup qualifying tie on Wednesday.

Champion Kaiserslautern also started its Bundesliga campaign with an away win, beating TSV 1860 Munich 2-1 with Egyptian newcomer Samir Ibrahim scoring the winner in the 62nd minute.

Striker Bernhard Winkler put the home side in front from the penalty spot in the 12th minute after being brought down by Kaiserslautern's goalkeeper Andreas Reinke.

The visitors leveled through danger man Olaf Marschall, who headed home from a cross by Brazilian midfielder Ratinho three minutes before the break.

Defender Ibrahim, who joined from Cairo club Al Ahly, looked clumsy at times but gave Kaiserslautern the points with his long-range effort.

Bayer Leverkusen, which spent 12 millions marks ($6.68 million) on Flamengo's Brazilian international midfielder Ze Roberto in the most expensive German transfer this summer, needed a double from defender Stefan Beinlich to tame Hansa Rostock 3-1.

Watched by Germany coach Berti Vogts, Beinlich struck in the 23rd and 46th minutes.

Midfielder Joerg Reeb, a signing from Arminia Bielefeld, added a third in the 73rd minute.

Croatian striker Igor Pamic scored for Rostock with a header in the 42nd minute.

Schalke 04 was crushed 3-0 at Borussia Moenchengladbach, which flirted with relegation last season.

Moenchengladbach made a dream start with veteran Austrian striker Toni Polster opening the scoring after just two minutes. Swede Jorgen Pettersson made it 2-0 eight minutes later and midfielder Matthias Hagner put the issue beyond doubt in the 80th minute.

Toni Polster ... scores after only two minutes for Moenchengladbach.

VfL Wolfsburg 0
Bayern Munich 1
Giovane Elber 65
Halftime: 0-0; Attendance: 20,600
Bayer Leverkusen 3
Stefan Beinlich 23, 46, Joerg Reeb 73
Hansa Rostock 1
Igor Pamic 42
HT: 1-1; Att: 22,500
VfL Bochum 1
Stefan Kuntz 73
SC Freiburg 2
Marco Weisshaupt 48pen, Alexander Yaschvili 72
HT: 0-0; Att: 21,500
Nuremberg 1
Andrei Polunin 53
Hamburg SV 1
Tony Yeboah 88
HT: 0-0; Att: 44,000
Borussia Moenchengladbach 3
Toni Polster 2, Jorgen Pettersson 10, Matthias Hagner 80
Schalke 04 0
HT: 2-0; Att: 34,500
TSV 1860 Munich 1
Bernhard Winkler 12pen
Kaiserslautern 2
Olaf Marschall 42, Samir Ibrahim 62
HT: 1-1; Att: 60,000
MSV Duisburg 2
Uwe Spies 17, Thomas Hoersen 47
Eintracht Frankfurt 1
Thomas Sobotzik 25
HT: 1-1; Att: 20,000
VfB Stuttgart 2
Jens Keller 9, Kristijan Djordjevic 17
Borussia Dortmund 1
Bachirou Salou 39
HT: 2-1; Att: 45,000

FRANCE

Le Havre ..... 2 Girondins Bordeaux 3
Sylvain Wiltord put Bordeaux ahead after 26 seconds and took his tally to three goals in two games in the second half after fellow striker Lilian Laslandes hit the second.

Le Havre replied twice early in the second half through strikers Cyrille Pouget and Miladin Becanovic, but the Yugoslav had a late equalizer disallowed for offside.

Monaco ..... 4 Sochaux 1
Thierry Henry dispelled fears he might have his mind on a move abroad with a super performance. He crossed from the right for Portuguese midfielder Francisco Da Costa to hit his first goal for Monaco before a minute was up, then scored in the 50th.

In an bright opening eight minutes promoted Sochaux equalized through defender Bernard Maraval in the fourth then Nigeria's Victor Ikpeba restored Monaco's lead before adding his second from a Henry pass seven minutes from time.

Paris St Germain ..... 2 Bastia 0
PSG's big signings inspired them to victory, German defender Christian Woerns stabbing the ball home from a corner in the 26th minute and Nigeria's Augustine Okocha suberbly laying on the second for Italian Marco Simone in the 52nd.

Nantes .....1 Strasbourg 0
Cameroon 17-year-old Salomon Olembe converted Nantes's dominance into points with a brilliant goal in the 26th minute after Argentine debutant Diego Bustos was just wide.

AJ Auxerre .....3 Nancy 2
French World Cup winger Bernard Diomede marked his return to action with two goals in the opening 21 minutes.

Auxere appeared to be cruising to victory after Polish defender Thomasz Klos added a third, but only juat managed to hang on after two Nancy goals in four minutes from Soufiane Kone and a Christophe Bastien penalty.

Montpellier ..... 3 Rennes 1
With former Marseille playmaker Xavier Graveliane in good form — including a volley that hit the bar — Montpellier won easily after two-goal Laurent Robert had opened the scoring after only six minutes.

Metz ..... 0 Olympique Marseille 1
Marseille went in front through playmaker Jocelyn Gourvennec against the run of play in the 45th minute as injury-hit Metz were still plagued by bad luck and woeful finishing. They have not scored in three games including their 1-0 European Cup second preliminary round first leg defeat in Helsinki.

Metz's Luxembourg defender Jeff Strasser, superbly fed into space by Yugoslav striker Vladan Lukic, stumbled in front of an open goal and shot wide with his thigh.

Olympique Lyon .....6 Toulouse 1
Toulouse may have been overconfident after beating defending champions RC Lens 3-2 at home last weekend.

Lyon's new creative midfielder Vikash Dhorasoo, signed from Le Havre was in superb form, prompting a second half rout after striker Alain Caveglia scored the first two goals.

RC Lens ..... 1 Lorient 1
Lens, who took the lead through teenager Stephane Dalmat in the 39th minute, have made a poor start to the defenCe of their title despite a first France call-up for captain Frederic Dehu and wing Tony Vairelles, picking up only one point from their first two matches. Lorient equalized with a fine goal by Ali Bouafia in the 51st minute.

FIRST DIVISION

Le Havre	2	Girondins Bordeaux	3
Monaco	4	Sochaux	1
Paris St Germain	2	Bastia	0
Nantes	1	Strasbourg	0
AJ Auxerre	3	Nancy	2
Montpellier	3	Rennes	1
Metz	0	Olympique Marseille	1
Olympique Lyon	6	Toulouse	1
RC Lens	1	Lorient	1

RUSSIA

PREMIER DIVISION

Dynamo Moscow 2
Oleg Terekhin 4, 22
Rotor Volgograd 2
Oleg Veretennikov 18, Nikolai Olenikov 85
Halftime: 2-1; Attendance: 3,000
Lokomotiv Moscow 0
Shinnik Yaroslavl 0
Att: 500
Zenit St Petersburg 0
Chernomorets Novorossiisk 1
Andrei Kurdyumov 51
HT: 0-0; Att: 8,000
Krylya Sovietov Samara 1
Vitaly Safronov 88
Tyumen 0
HT: 0-0; Att: 15,000
Alania Vladikavkaz 0
CSKA Moscow 1
Sergei Semak 62
HT: 0-0; Att: 32,000
Zhemchuzhina Sochi 0
Torpedo Moscow 4
Muksin Mukhamadiyev 29, Viktor Bulatov 57, 78, Igor Semshov 65
HT: 0-1; Att: 6,000
Baltika Kaliningrad 3
Konstantin Vizenok 82, Alexander Sednev 89, Andrei Fedkov 90
Rostselmash Rostov 0
HT: 0-0; Att: 12,000
Red card: Alexei Gushchin (Rostselmash) 68

AUSTRIA

Sturm Graz	2	Graz AK	3
Austria Vienna	3	SV Salzburg	2
Ried	3	Lustenau	1
Vorwaerts Steyr	1	LASK Linz	4
Tirol Innsbruck	1	Rapid Vienna	3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Graz AK	5	4	1	0	8	3	13
Rapid Vienna	4	3	1	0	11	3	10
Sturm Graz	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
Austria Vienna	5	3	1	1	9	6	10
LASK Linz	5	3	0	2	10	8	9
Ried	5	1	1	3	3	4	4
Tirol Innsbruck	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Lustenau	5	0	2	3	4	12	2
SV Salzburg	3	0	1	2	4	7	1
Vorwerts Steyr	5	0	1	4	3	11	-2

YUGOSLAVIA

OFK Beograd Belgrade	2	Milicionar Belgrade	2
Zeleznik Belgrade	1	Proleter Zrenjanin	0
Spartak Subotica	1	Rad Belgrade	3
Mogren Budva	1	Zemun Belgrade	0
Radnicki Kragujeva	2	Vojvodina Novi Sad	3
Radnicki Nis	1	Hajduk Kula	1
C Zvezda Belgrade	0	Sartid Smederevo	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vojvodina	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Rad	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Crvena Zvezda	2	1	0	1	4	1	3
Partizan	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Radnicki (K)	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Zemun	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Proleter	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Sartid	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Zeleznik	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Mogren	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
OFK Beograd	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Milicionar	2	0	2	0	2	2	2

Compiled by UK ABSW

SALAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH?

Manchester United's board, sick of being blamed for not signing Chilean World Cup star Marcelo Salas (now playing in Serie A with Lazio) have issued a clarifying statement saying that it was Alex Ferguson, not the board, who was responsible for passing on Salas.

Apparently Fergie's assistant Brian Kidd saw him and was of the belief that the player was not good enough to play at the 'Theatre of Dreams' (above). The board issued their statement in the hope that supporters would understand that it was not money that was the issue, rather the coaching staff's opinion of the player.

Other transfers that have gone ahead in the premier are:

Arsenal:
David Grondin, France, defender, St Etienne, 500,000 pounds ($815,900). Nelson Vivas, Argentina, defender, Lugano, 2.0 million.

Aston Villa:
Alan Thompson, midfielder, Bolton Wanderers, 4.5 million
David Unsworth, defender, West Ham, 3.0 million

Blackburn Rovers:
Kevin Davies, forward, Southampton, 7.25 million
Sebastien Perez, France, defender, Bastia, 3.0 million
Darren Peacock, defender, Newcastle United, free

Charlton Athletic:
Neil Redfearn, midfielder, Barnsley, 1.1 million
Chris Powell, defender, Derby County, 825,000
Emeka Ifejiagwa, Nigeria, defender, Lagos, 20,000

Chelsea:
Pierluigi Casiraghi, Italy, striker, Lazio, 5.4 million
Brian Laudrup, Denmark, forward, Rangers, free
Albert Ferrer, Spain, defender, Barcelona, 2.2 million
Marcel Desailly, France, defender, AC Milan, 4.6 million

Coventry City:
Robert Jarni, Croatia, defender, Real Betis, 2.6 million
Jean-Guy Wallemme, France, defender, Lens.
Paul Hall, Jamaica, forward, Portsmouth, 300,000
Ian Brightwell, defender, Manchester City, free

Derby County:
Horacio Carbonari, Argentina, defender, Rosario Central, 2.7 million
Stefan Schnoor, Germany, defender, Hamburg, free

Everton:
Olivier Dacourt, France, midfielder, Strasbourg, 3.8 million
John Collins, midfielder, Monaco, 2.5 million
Marco Materazzi, Italy, defender, Perugia, 2.5 million

Leeds United:
Clyde Wijnhard, Netherlands, forward, Willem II, 1.5 million
Danny Granville, defender, Chelsea, 1.5 million

Leicester City:
Gerry Taggart, defender, Bolton Wanderers, free

Liverpool:
Sean Dundee, Germany, forward, Karlsruhe, 2.0 million
Steve Staunton, Ireland, midfielder, Aston Villa, free
Vegard Heggem, Norway, defender, Rosenborg Trondheim

Manchester United:
Jaap Stam, Netherlands, defender, PSV Eindhoven, 10 million
Jesper Blomqvist, Sweden, winger, Parma, 4.4 million

Middlesbrough:
Gary Pallister, defender, Manchester United, 2.5 million
Dean Gordon, defender, Crystal Palace, 900,000

George Georgiadis

Newcastle United:
Dietmar Hamann, Germany, midfielder, Bayern Munich, 4.5 million
Stephane Guivarc'h, France, forward, Auxerre, 3.5 million
Laurent Charvet, France, midfielder, Cannes, 520,000
Carl Serrant, defender, Oldham Athletic, 500,000
George Georgiadis, Greece, midfielder, Panathinaikos, 420,000
Garry Brady, midfielder, Tottenham Hotspur

Nottingham Forest:
Dougie Freedman, forward, Wolverhampton Wanderers, 950,000
Jean-Claude Darcheville, France, forward, Rennes, 700,000

Sheffield Wednesday:
Wim Jonk, Netherlands, midfielder, PSV Eindhoven, 2.5 million

Southampton:
Mark Hughes, forward, Chelsea, 650,000
Stuart Ripley, forward, Blackburn Rovers, 1.5 million
James Beattie, forward, Blackburn Rovers, 1.0 million
David Howells, midfielder, Tottenham Hotspur

Tottenham Hotspur:
Paolo Tramezzani, Italy, defender, Piacenza, 1.4 million

West Ham:
Javier Margas, Chile, defender, Universidad Catolica, 2.0 million
Ian Wright, forward, Arsenal
Marc Keller, France, forward, Karlsruhe
Shaka Hislop, goalkeeper, Newcastle United, free
Neil Ruddock, defender, Liverpool

Wimbledon:
none

SHORT PASSES

While former England star David Platt has decided to quit playing and is travelling around the world on a managerial fact-seeking mission ... record goalscorer Ian Rush is treading the boards at more unfashionable places like Macclesfield and Colchester as Wrexham's player-coach ...Thomas Brolin, the abject failure at Leeds and Crystal Palace is now in the vacuum selling business. He has retired from the game at only 28 ... Chris Waddle is backing Paul Gascoigne to be playing at the 2002 World Cup Finals ... Young Wolves star Robbie Keane is reportedly exciting the management team at Arsenal ... Rangers' Gordon Durie could be out for some time after being injured in the UEFA Cup against PAOK ...Gazza's divorce is going ahead and his now ex-wife is opting for a quick divorce ... The FA has dropped the infamous 'Bungs' investigation centred on one of the characters of the game, Brian Clough...Leicester are in the market for Chelsea's defender Frank Sinclair...Gianluca Vialli plans to sue a coach in Italy who has suggested that the player/manager at Chelsea has been taking the naughty substances in order to bulk up ...Officials with Premiership newcomer Nottingham Forest said that they are hoping to sign defender Matthieu Louis-Jen from French club Le Havre... West Ham's Frank Lampard has signed a five year deal with the Upton Park club ... Chelsea's Vialli has also come out and said that if he does not bring home the bacon ie. the Premiership, he would expect the sack ... Glen Hoddle and Alex Ferguson are embroiled in a bitter dispute over the Hodd's new book. Hoddle was angry that Fergie criticised Beckham's dropping at the World Cup. The book has been serialised in The Sun Newspaper. Hoddle was reportedly furious that Ferguson stuck his big hooter in the England manager's business ... Croatia star Robert Jarni is reportedly ready to turn down Coventry's offer to play in the Premier.

Ronaldo has admitted that he wants to play in the Premiership for Manchester United or Arsenal.

The Brazilian striker, who flopped in the World Cup final defeat against France after being taken to hospital only hours before the kick-off, insists that he is now fit again and ready for his new season with Inter Milan.

Speaking in Rio de Janeiro, he said: "I'm looking forward to going back to Italy - but one day I want to play in England, either for Manchester United or Arsenal.

"I have been to England only once but I follow the English championship and I know everything about it. It has improved a lot."

Ronaldo, a confirmed admirer of Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp, also said he would like to play alongside Liverpool's Michael Owen.

He said: 'Owen's speed is awesome. he has a great future. I would like to play on the same pitch as him - whether for his team or against him.

Ronaldo, who flies to Europe with his girlfriend Susana Werner this week, said, however, that he had not yet received any offers from Premiership clubs.

Nottingham Forest keeper Mark Crossley has accused Dutch striker Pierre van Hooydonk of trying to hold the club to ransom.

Crossley is furious with van Hooydonk who has gone on a one-man strike refusing to return to the City Ground for the start of the Premiership season claiming Forest's lack of ambition has forced him to put in a transfer request.

The keeper knows it will be tough in the top flight without the strikeforce of van Hooydonk and Kevin Campbell, transferred to Turkey, who played an important part in Forest's promotion last season with 52 goals between them.

But Crossley said: "Pierre has tried to hold the club to ransom. It is blackmail, nothing less than that. It has been very difficult for the players here to accept the situation and realise that it is going on.

Remember that solo goal Kevin Davies scored for Southampton last year at Everton? Totally magic and definitely put Kevin Davies' name down as 'one to watch'. Sadly injury restricted his appearances. He has since left the Dell and is with Blackburn for an $11.80 million fee.

What Hodgson has got for his money is a confident, but untested 21-year-old with a golden touch and a desire to learn.

But the admiration is mutual, with Davies admitting his decision to move to Blackburn was more than influenced by his craving to work with the man who took Switzerland to the World Cup Finals and managed Italians Inter Milan.

"The manager has impressed me by the way he takes time in training to put things right," said Davies. "I have a lot of faith in him. If he sees something you haven't done right he comes over and has a word with you. He's already shown me new things, like a new trick."

The Sheffield-born striker spent the summer on the treadmill in an effort to get fully fit after missing the last third of the season due to a series of injuries.

"The boss is more scientific in his approach than I've seen at other clubs. I'm not used to training in the morning, resting for three hours and then training in the afternoon. I must admit it is odd going home at six in the evening."

Davies doesn't mind the long hours as he is looking ahead to a premier league challenge and a season of UEFA Cup football. He realises this has all come in a short space of time considering he was a nobody at lowly Chesterfield this time two years ago.

But a staring role in the Spireites' dream run to the FA Cup semifinals brought him to national attention.

He was snapped up by Southampton's then boss Graeme Souness for $1.22 million only to see Souness leave the club before he had put on a Saints shirt.

Compiled by UK ABSW

GAZZA'S MATE DIES AFTER BEVY BINGE

A friend of British Paul Gascoigne died of a suspected heart attack after an all-night drinking session with the soccer ace, the Sun newspaper reported on Saturday.

David Cheek, 43, died in a hotel room in Tyneside in northeast England after a night out with Gascoigne, known as "Gazza," and his best friend Jimmy "Five Bellies" Gardner, Britain's best-selling tabloid said.

His body was discovered by Gardner on Friday at the up-market hotel where the England and Middlesborough Football club star was staying.

Gascoigne's drinking and lack of fitness caused him to be left out of England's World Cup soccer squad in June, sparking a controversial clash with England manager Glen Hoddle.

This new scandal comes on top of Gazza's now public divorce from his wife, and for many, confirms that he is the same old gregarious and slightly mad Gazza that has confounded club officials at Spurs, Lazio, Rangers and now Boro.

ALBERTZ PENS SAVES RANGERS' BLUES

Jorg Albertz rescued Rangers from another stumble when his 90th minute penalty gave Dick Advocaat's team a 2-1 win over Motherwell and their first victory in the Scottish premier league on Saturday.

The former champions, who lost their opening match to Hearts, profited from a controversial decision in injury time to pick up their first league points of the season.

Few could see the handball offence against Motherwell's Finnish striker, Kai Nyyssonen, but the referee pointed to the spot.

German international Albertz, who scored 15 goals last season, many of them crucial matchwinners, stepped up and slotted his penalty past keeper Steve Woods.

Rangers had earlier gone ahead to the delight of the 49,275 crowd at Ibrox when former Leeds man Rod Wallace scored with a header in the 14th minute from a cross by Dutch international Arthur Numan, to record his third goal since joining last month.

Colin Hendry... debuted for Rangers.

Wallace also scored last Tuesday in the UEFA Cup win over PAOK Salonika. However, despite Andrei Kanchelskis going close with a shot, Rangers were then pulled back to 1-1 when Owen Coyle equalised for Motherwell in the 52nd minute.

Coyle, one of only three Motherwell players left from last season, latched onto a mistake by Rangers captain Lorenzo Amoruso and sped away from the Italian, before clipping a fine shot beyond Lionel Charbonnier in the Rangers goal.

The keeper, a member of France's winning World Cup squad although he did not play in the finals, was making his debut following his recent 1.2 million pounds move from Auxerre.

Rangers also gave a debut to Scotland captain Colin Hendry, whom they paid Blackburn Rovers 4.5 million pounds for two weeks ago.

Afterwards Rangers coach Dick Advocaat, who has spent 30 million pounds on new players, said: "We did not play at our best.

"We showed a lot of nerves and we still need games to get things sorted out."

Elsewhere, Kilmarnock, who lost in midweek in the UEFA Cup to Czech side Sigma Olumouc, drew 0-0 with St Johnstone in Perth.

Dunfermline gained their first league points by defeating Dundee 2-0 at home, thanks to goals from Andy Smith and George Shaw to leave the newly-promoted team bottom of the league.

SCOTTISH RESULTS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Dunfermline Athletic	2	Dundee United	0
Rangers	2	Motherwell	1
St Johnstone	0	Kilmarnock	0
Aberdeen	3	Celtic	2
Dundee United	0	Hearts	0

DIVISION ONE

Ayr	1	Greenock Morton	0
Clydebank	0	Falkirk	1
Hamilton	1	Airdrieonians	1
Hibernian	1	Stranraer	2
St Mirren	2	Raith	1

DIVISION TWO

East Fife	2	Alloa	2
Forfar	0	Partick	1
Inverness Thistle	2	Livingston	1
Queen of the South	0	Arbroath	0
Stirling	1	Clyde	2

DIVISION THREE

Albion	0	Ross County	8
East Stirling	1	Brechin	1
Montrose	1	Berwick	1
Queen's Park	0	Dumbarton	1
Stenhousemuir	1	Cowdenbeath	2

NORTHERN IRISH

PREMIER

Ballymena	1	Glenavon	0
Cliftonville	0	Portadown	2
Crusaders	0	Coleraine	1
Glentoran	2	Omagh	0

PROBLEMS AT COVENTRY

Viorel Moldovan, who has just left Coventry City for the highly-regarded (!!) Turkish league, has slagged off English football for being too "kick and run".

Now this would not have anything to do with the fact that Darren Huckerby and Dion Dublin kept him out of the first team, would it?

Still on Coventry and the latest Premiership victims of wife-power, are determined to turn the loss of World Cup star Robert Jarni into a $2million profit for the club.

Denied the services of Croatia's outstanding midfielder because his wife refuses to leave their Spanish home to live in England with their two young children, the Sky Blues intend to cash in.

They have Jarni signed and sealed, but not delivered, on a $5m deal with his former club Real Betis and are demanding $7m from Real Madrid who have settled personal terms with the player.

The Spanish giants have accused Coventry of greed but chairman Bryan Richardson countered: 'That is absolutely not the case. We are merely being businesslike.

"The only reason we got a world-class player like Jarni for $5m was because he was near the end of his contract with Betis. But he signed a three-year deal plus a year's option with us last week and that makes him worth considerably more. That's not to mention the amount of time and trouble we put in to get him.

"Frankly we, and manager Gordon Strachan, would rather have had the player than the money. He wanted to join us and agreed to do so.

Everything was concluded in Spain last Friday and he came back with us to Coventry on Saturday.

"Then his Croatian wife decided that she would not come to England after following him to Italy, where he was with Juventus, and then Spain."

Emile Heskey is being offered a trapdoor contract and the chance to double his money to stay at Leicester.

England's Under-21 international striker is a natural target for big-spending Premiership predators but crucial to Leicester's hopes of staying among the elite.

Manager Martin O'Neill is tempting the 20-year-old to remain for at least another year beyond the remaining 12 months of his present contract by making him the club's highest-paid player on around $20,000-a-week.

O'Neill is ready to write in an escape clause enabling Heskey to move next summer should Leicester's remarkable renaissance under his management turn sour.

O'Neill, having established his own negotiating powers following boardroom changes at Filbert Street, said: "My priority is to safeguard Heskey's future with us, together with Neil Lennon and goalkeeper Kasey Keller.

"Of course, I would like to keep Emile with us for five years - but I have to be realistic and accept he would not want to commit himself for an eternity.

"Even Liverpool would not expect to keep hold of Michael Owen for the next 15 years but I certainly want Heskey around with us until he is 22 so that he can finish his footballing education."

HODD BLAMES MEDIA

Glenn Hoddle fought back against charges he broke players' confidences in a book, blaming sensational newspaper headlines for distorting his words.

Hoddle, criticised by his predecessors, former internationals and the players' union, said he needed to reveal the truth about events involving controversial midfielder Paul Gascoigne.

Hoddle's book, "The 1998 World Cup Story," is currently being serialised by The Sun newspaper and its behind-the-scenes detail and record of private conversations He said: "I wouldn't have come to Chelsea unless I thought they could win the title. I'm used to physical defenders and I know the mentality is the same here."

Hoddle described how Paul Gascoigne smashed a bedside lamp and "went beserk" when told he had been left out of the World Cup squad.

"People are reacting to something that they haven't read yet. Things like 'Gazza trashed my room' are just not in the book and it's something I would not have said," Hoddle said.

"The situation has unfolded because of the headlines," he added. The chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, Gordon Taylor, condemned Hoddle and said his attempts to clear his name had proved critics were right.

"It's crying crocodile tears to blame newspaper headlines," said Taylor, accusing Hoddle of making private gain out of confidential dealings with his players.

The book was ghost-written by David Davies, the F.A.'s director of public affairs. Graham Kelly, the F.A.'s chief executive, has backed Hoddle.

England midfielder David Beckham has signed a five-year contract with Manchester United worth about 5.0 million pounds ($8.11 million), English newspapers reported.

Beckham joins other home-grown stars like Ryan Giggs, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes in signing long-term contracts to stay at the English premier league side.

"I am delighted to commit myself on a long-term contract. This is the club where I have grown up and it's where I want to stay," the 23-year-old Beckham said.

Beckham, the golden boy of English soccer before this year's World Cup, crashed to infamy when he was sent off in a crucial second round match against Argentina and was blamed for England's loss and exit from the competition.

ZOLA OFF-LOADED?

Chelsea manager Gianluca Vialli is ready to start balancing the books after his $24million summer captures - and that could signal the departure of fans' hero Gianfranco Zola.

Vialli accepts he will have to make some tough decisions in his first full season in management after bringing in Brian Laudrup, Pierluigi Casiraghi, Marcel Desailly and Albert Ferrer.

But after raiding the Stamford Bridge coffers to put together a squad that he believes can bring home the championship for the first time since 1955, Vialli knows he has to put some figures in the income column of his balance sheet.

Frank Sinclair's $4m departure to Leicester was a sign of what is to come and the Italian player-manager admitted that he has to be ready to jettison any of his squad if the price is right.

With Laudrup and Casiraghi certain to be regulars this term, and Vialli determined to hold on to Tore-Andre Flo, the Chelsea boss could be considering breaking the hearts of the Blues faithful by letting Zola go.

The 32-year-old Sardinian was named Footballer of the Year in 1997 but his form dipped last season.

Vialli said: 'Sometimes you have to make sacrifices because you've brought in somebody you feel is vital for the team.

"You might have a player who you feel can do a good job but have to sell him because you can only get money for players with a market value."

Zola blamed Vialli's continuation of predecessor Ruud Gullit's squad rotation policy for his World Cup omission and now Chelsea have five strikers, one more than last term. Hometown club Cagliari are known to want him to end his playing days back in Sardinia. Vialli added: "I can try to convince a player to stay but if he wants to leave I would be selfish if I made him stay."

Ironically, Zola could start at Coventry today because Laudrup is struggling with a hamstring problem.

Former Lazio striker Casiraghi is looking to be as big a success at Chelsea as Zola, Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo.

I REMEMBER WHEN ...

Stuart Jones' weekly look back at the UK game over the years

1975/76: SCOUSERS RULE

This season Liverpool were surprised to have Queens Park Rangers as their number one challengers. At the beginning of May QPR led the first division, with Liverpool having a game in hand, whilst the London club had completed their fixtures a week earlier with a 2-0 win over Leeds at home.

Liverpool played Wolves away with the home side in a tight relegation battle. In the biggest of games Wolves lost 3-1, and stayed up anyway, while Liverpool were crowned champions for the first time in three seasons.

Manchester United finished third with defending title holders Derby County behind them. At the bottom Burnley (who lost 1-3 at home to Coventry in their final game) and Sheffield United were relegated. An undefeated season at Roker Park helped Sunderland to take the Division One title with Bristol City, WBA, and Bolton fighting for the other two promotion positions. April 24 was crunch day with City losing at home to Notts County 1-2. West Brom won 1-0 away at Oldham and Bolton won 3-1 at Bristol Rovers.

Bolton then won their game in hand at Charlton 4-0 but it was not enough as they needed WBA to have lost the Oldham game. Bristol City and West Bromwich Albion were promoted.

At the bottom things were much clearer with Oxford, York and Portsmouth all relegated. Carlisle, who had been in the top flight the season previous, avoided a second relegation by only one position and four points.

Division Three was won by Hereford United, a triumphant rise for the former Southern league side. Cardiff City and Millwall also won promotion (two sides who were to rise in prominence more for their supporters than their team on the park).

Halifax, Southend and Colchester were relegated. The other spot was tight with with Grimsby's 2-1 home win over Gillingham, and Swindon and Sheffield Wednesday's collection of three points from their final two games enough to see off Aldershot, despite the Shots' 3-1 win at the Shay over Halifax in their final game of the season.

Division Four was all Lincoln, as they Northampton, Reading and Tranmere left the basement for a spot in a higher division. At the bottom were Workington Town a feat they would duplicate the following season.

The League Cup final saw Barnes and Dennis Tueart score for Manchester City, handing them a 2-1 win over Newcastle United.

The FA Cup had seen Crystal Palace lose to Southampton in one semi whilst Manchester United were turning over Derby County by exactly the same scoreline, 2-0. At Wembley, United were raging favourites against the second division side McCalliog turned the match with a through ball from the centre circle to Stokes who ran onto it, shot early, and scored for McMenemy's Southampton. United failed to reply and Southampton won the FA Cup.

In the Southern League, Wimbledon did the Southern League and Cup double. Yeovil Town were runners up in both competitions. Some of the more notable managers were Derek Dougan (Kettering Town) and Geoff Hurst (Telford United).

The bottom three went down but Wealdstone were saved after Dunstable Town went into liquidation (appearing as Dunstable in the lower leagues the following year). Redditch and Minehead won their respective first division titles, with AP Leamington and Dartford returning to the Premier League also Ramsgate quit the Southern League after this season.

In Scotland, Rangers successfully defended their title (now called the Premier League). It was the first season of the three division format.

Celtic finished runners-up with Hibernian five points behind. St Johnstone had a shocker and collected just 11 points. Then and Dundee were relegated. Even Dundee finished a full twenty points behind great rivals Dundee United, who finished eight. Partick Thistle and Kilmarnock were not quite as comprehensive in winning promotion but the gap was clear enough. Dunfermline and Clyde were relegated to Division Two.

Division Two saw Clydebank and Raith both gain 40 points and together gain promotion. A 0-0 draw with Alloa for Clydebank was enough to nick the title off Raith.

The League Cup final was an all-Glasgow affair once more with Rangers winning 1-0 over Celtic. Just to complete things nicely Rangers also defeated Hearts 3-1 in the Scottish FA Cup final. (Celtic had been knocked out in Round 3 by Motherwell).

European competition had second round departures for Rangers and Derby County in the European Cup. The UEFA Cup went to Liverpool 4-3 on aggregate over Club Brugge (their road had included wins over Hibs, Real Sociedad, Slask Wroclaw, Dynamo Dresden, and Barcelona).

West Ham made the Cup Winners Cup final but lost 2-4 to RSC Anderlecht despite being 1-0 up early and tieing the game up 2-2 on 68 minutes. Later in 1976, Bayern Munchen won the Super Cup.

AROUND EUROPE:

	League Champions	Cup Winners
Austria	FK Austria	SK Rapid Wien
Belgium	Club Brugge	RSC Anderlecht
Bulgaria	CSKA Sofia	Levski-Spartak
France	AS Saint Etienne	Olympique Marseilles
Germany - East	Dynamo Dresden	Lokomotive Leipzig
- West	Borussia Munchengladbach	Hamburger SV
Holland	PSV Eindhoven	PSV Eindhoven
Italy	Torino	Napoli
Poland	Stal Mielec	Slask Wroclaw
Portugal	Benfica	Boavista FC
Romania	Steaua Bucuresti	Steaua Bucuresti
Russia	Torpedo Moskva	Dynamo Tbilisi
Spain	Real Madrid	Atletico Madrid
Sweden	Halmstad BK	AIK Stockholm
Switzerland	FC Zurich	FC Zurich

European Cup:	Bayern Munchen
Euro Cup Winners Cup:	PSV Eindhoven
UEFA Cup:	Liverpool
Super Cup:	Bayern Munchen

ENGLAND

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	42	14	5	2	41	21	9	9	3	25	10	60
QPR	42	17	4	0	42	13	7	7	7	25	20	59
Man. U	42	16	4	1	40	13	7	6	8	28	29	56
Derby Co	42	15	3	3	45	30	6	8	7	30	28	53
Leeds U	42	13	3	5	37	19	8	6	7	28	27	51
Ipswich T	42	11	6	4	36	23	5	8	8	18	25	46
Leicester C	42	9	9	3	29	24	4	10	7	19	27	45
Man. C	42	14	5	2	46	18	2	6	13	18	28	43
Tottenham H	42	6	10	5	33	32	8	5	8	30	31	43
Norwich C	42	10	5	6	33	26	6	5	10	25	32	42
Everton	42	10	7	4	37	24	5	5	11	23	42	42
Stoke C	42	8	5	8	25	24	7	6	8	23	26	41
M'brough	42	9	7	5	23	11	6	3	12	23	34	40
Coventry C	42	6	9	6	22	22	7	5	9	25	35	40
Newcastle U	42	11	4	6	51	26	4	5	12	20	36	39
Aston Villa	42	11	8	2	32	17	0	9	12	19	42	39
Arsenal	42	11	4	6	33	19	2	6	13	14	34	36
West Ham U	42	10	5	6	26	23	3	5	13	22	48	36
Birmingham C	42	11	5	5	36	26	2	2	17	21	49	33
Wolves	42	7	6	8	27	25	3	4	14	24	43	30
Burnley	42	6	6	9	23	26	3	4	14	20	40	28
Sheffield U	42	4	7	10	19	32	2	3	16	14	50	22

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	42	19	2	0	48	10	5	6	10	19	26	56
Bristol C	42	11	7	3	34	14	8	8	5	25	21	53
WBA	42	10	9	2	29	12	10	4	7	21	21	53
Bolton W	42	12	5	4	36	14	8	7	6	28	24	52
Notts Co	42	11	6	4	33	13	8	5	8	27	28	49
Southampton	42	18	2	1	49	16	3	5	13	17	34	49
Luton T	42	13	6	2	38	15	6	4	11	23	36	48
Nottingham F	42	13	1	7	34	18	4	11	6	21	22	46
Charlton A	42	11	5	5	40	34	4	7	10	21	38	42
Blackpool	42	9	9	3	26	22	5	5	11	14	27	42
Chelsea	42	7	9	5	25	20	5	7	9	28	34	40
Fulham	42	9	8	4	27	14	4	6	11	18	33	40
Orient	42	10	6	5	21	12	3	8	10	16	27	40
Hull C	42	9	5	7	29	23	5	6	10	16	26	39
Blackburn R	42	8	6	7	27	22	4	8	9	18	28	36
Plymouth A	42	13	4	4	36	20	0	8	13	12	34	38
Oldham A	42	11	8	2	37	24	2	4	15	20	44	38
Bristol R	42	7	9	5	20	15	4	7	10	18	35	38
Carlisle U	42	9	8	4	29	22	3	5	13	16	37	37
Oxford U	42	7	7	7	23	25	4	4	13	16	34	33
Portsmouth	42	4	6	11	15	23	5	1	16	17	38	25

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hereford U	46	14	6	3	45	24	12	5	6	41	31	63
Cardiff C	46	14	7	2	38	13	8	6	9	31	35	57
Millwall	46	16	6	1	35	14	4	10	9	19	29	56
Brighton & H	46	18	3	2	58	15	4	6	13	20	38	53
Crystal P	46	7	12	4	30	20	11	5	7	31	26	53
Wrexham	46	13	6	4	38	21	7	6	10	28	34	52
Walsall	46	11	8	4	43	22	7	6	10	31	39	50
Preston NE	46	15	4	4	45	23	4	6	13	17	34	48
Shrewsbury T	46	14	2	7	36	25	5	8	10	25	34	48
Peterboro'U	46	12	7	4	37	23	3	11	9	26	40	48
Mansfield T	46	8	11	4	31	22	8	4	11	27	30	47
Port Vale	46	10	10	3	33	21	5	6	12	22	33	46
Bury	46	11	7	5	33	16	3	9	11	18	30	44
Chesterfield	46	11	5	7	45	30	6	4	13	24	39	43
Gillingham	46	10	8	5	38	27	2	11	10	20	41	43
Rotherham U	46	11	6	6	35	22	4	6	13	19	43	42
Chester	46	13	7	3	34	19	2	5	16	9	43	42
Grimsby T	46	13	7	3	39	21	2	3	18	23	53	40
Swindon T	46	11	4	8	42	31	5	4	14	20	44	40
Sheffield W	46	12	5	6	34	25	0	10	13	14	34	40
Aldershot	46	10	8	5	34	26	3	5	15	25	49	39
Colchester U	46	9	6	8	25	27	3	8	12	16	38	38
Southend U	46	9	7	7	40	31	3	6	14	25	44	37
Halifax T	46	6	5	12	22	32	5	8	10	19	29	35

DIVISION 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lincoln C	46	21	2	0	71	15	11	8	4	40	24	74
Northampton T	46	18	5	0	62	20	11	5	7	25	20	68
Reading	46	19	3	1	42	9	5	9	9	28	42	60
Tranmere R	46	18	3	2	61	16	6	7	10	28	39	58
H'field T	46	11	6	6	28	17	10	8	5	28	24	56
Bournemouth	46	15	5	3	39	16	5	7	11	18	32	52
Exeter C	46	13	7	3	37	17	5	7	11	19	30	50
Watford	46	16	4	3	38	18	6	2	15	24	44	50
Torquay U	46	12	6	5	31	24	6	8	9	24	39	50
Doncaster R	46	10	6	7	42	31	9	5	9	33	38	49
Swansea C	46	14	8	1	51	21	2	7	14	15	36	47
Barnsley	46	12	8	3	34	16	2	8	13	18	32	44
Cambridge U	46	7	10	6	36	28	7	5	11	22	34	43
Hartlepool	46	10	6	7	37	29	6	4	13	25	49	42
Rochdale	46	7	11	5	27	23	5	7	11	13	31	42
Crewe A	46	10	7	6	36	21	3	8	12	22	36	41
Bradford C	46	9	7	7	35	26	3	10	10	28	39	41
Brentford	46	12	7	4	37	18	2	6	15	19	42	41
Scunthorpe U	46	11	3	9	31	24	3	7	13	19	35	33
Darlington	46	11	7	5	30	14	3	3	17	18	43	33

SOUTHERN LEAGUE

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wimbledon	42	26	10	6	74	29	62
Yeovil Town	42	21	12	9	68	35	54
Atherstone Town	42	18	15	9	56	55	51
Maidstone United	42	17	16	9	52	39	50
Nuneaton Borough	42	16	18	8	41	33	50
Gravesend & Northfleet	42	16	18	8	49	47	50
Grantham	42	15	14	13	56	47	44
Dunstable Town	42	17	9	16	52	43	43
Bedford Town	42	13	17	12	55	51	43
Burton Albion	42	17	9	16	52	53	43
Margate	42	15	12	15	62	60	42
Hillingdon Borough	42	13	14	15	61	54	40
Telford United	42	14	12	16	54	51	40
Chelmsford City	42	13	14	15	52	57	40
Kettering Town	42	11	17	14	48	52	39
Bath City	42	11	16	15	52	57	38
Weymouth	42	13	9	20	51	67	35
Dover	42	8	18	16	51	60	34
Wealdstone	42	12	9	21	61	82	33
Tonbridge AFC	42	11	11	20	45	70	33
Cambridge City	42	8	15	19	41	67	31
Stourbridge	42	10	9	23	38	72	29

FIRST DIVISION

NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Redditch United	42	29	11	2	101	39	69
AP Leamington	42	27	10	5	85	31	64
Witney Town	42	24	9	9	66	40	57
Worcester City	42	24	8	10	90	49	56
Cheltenham Town	42	20	10	12	87	55	50
Barry Town	42	19	10	13	52	47	48
King's Lynn	42	17	14	11	52	48	48
Tamworth	42	18	11	13	65	43	47
Barnet	42	15	12	15	56	56	42
Oswestry Town	42	16	8	18	63	71	40
Enderby Town	42	16	6	20	48	51	38
Banbury United	42	15	8	19	58	67	38
Merthyr Tydfil	42	11	15	16	59	67	37
Bromsgrove Rovers	42	13	11	18	49	65	37
Milton Keynes City	42	15	6	21	51	63	36
Bury Town	42	12	11	19	52	72	35
Gloucester City	42	13	9	20	49	78	35
Kidderminster Harriers	42	13	8	21	54	70	34
Bedworth United	42	8	18	16	41	66	34
Corby Town	42	11	10	21	50	65	32
Wellingborough Town	42	9	11	22	42	68	29
Stevenage Athletic	42	6	6	30	46	105	18

FIRST DIVISION

SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Minehead	38	27	8	3	102	35	62
Dartford	38	26	4	8	84	46	56
Romford	38	21	9	8	66	37	51
Salisbury	38	17	11	10	73	53	45
Hastings United	38	15	15	8	67	51	45
Poole Town	38	20	2	16	57	57	42
Bexley United	38	14	13	11	62	53	41
Waterlooville	38	13	13	12	62	54	39
Basingstoke Town	38	13	12	13	69	71	38
Ashford Town	38	14	8	16	67	73	36
Canterbury City	38	11	13	14	53	60	35
Folkestone & Shepway	38	10	14	14	36	51	34
Metropolitan Police	38	9	14	15	46	58	32
Trowbridge Town	38	11	10	17	48	75	32
Guildford & Dorking U.	38	9	13	16	43	50	31
Bognor Regis Town	38	6	17	15	44	72	29
Ramsgate	38	9	10	19	57	76	28
Crawley Town	38	9	10	19	46	66	28
Andover	38	9	10	19	42	62	28
Dorchester Town	38	11	6	21	45	69	28

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	36	23	8	5	60	24	54
Celtic	36	21	6	9	71	42	48
Hibernian	36	18	7	11	55	43	43
Motherwell	36	16	8	12	57	49	40
Hearts	36	13	9	14	39	45	35
Ayr U	36	14	5	17	46	59	33
Aberdeen	36	11	10	15	49	50	32
Dundee U	36	12	8	16	46	48	52
Dundee	36	11	10	15	49	62	32
St Johnstone	36	3	5	28	29	79	11

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Patrick T	26	17	7	2	47	19	41
Kilmarnock	26	16	3	7	44	29	35
Montrose	26	12	6	8	53	43	30
Dumbarton	26	12	4	10	53	46	28
Arbroath	26	11	4	11	41	39	26
St Mirren	26	9	8	9	37	37	26
Falkirk	26	10	5	11	38	35	25
Airdrie	26	7	11	8	44	41	25
Hamilton A	26	7	10	9	37	37	24
Queen of South	26	9	6	11	41	47	24
Morton	26	7	9	10	31	40	23
East Fife	26	8	7	11	39	53	23
Dunfermline A	26	5	10	11	30	51	20
Clyde	26	5	4	17	34	52	14

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Clydebank	26	17	6	3	44	13	40
Raith R	26	15	10	1	45	22	40
Alloa	26	14	7	5	44	28	35
Queen's Park	26	10	9	7	41	33	29
Cowdenbeath	26	11	7	8	44	43	29
Stirling A	26	9	7	10	39	32	25
Stranraer	26	11	3	12	49	43	25
E Stirling	26	8	8	10	33	33	24
Albion R	26	7	10	9	35	38	24
Stenhousemuir	26	9	5	12	39	44	23
Berwick R	26	7	5	14	32	44	19
Forfar A	26	4	10	12	28	48	18
Brechin C	26	6	5	15	28	51	17
Meadowbank T	26	5	6	15	24	53	16

DESTA
CORREO